

WITH 40 PAGES OF OFFICE, LEGAL AND BANKING APPOINTMENTS



WOMEN WHO MARRY BOSSES



What happened when the flag came down



Bright flight: Five of the World Images commissioned by British Airways as part of its new £60m corporate identity adom the tail-fins of Boeing 747-400s. The images are from the Kalahari, the US, Scotland, Poland and Japan Report, page 3 Photograph: PA

Hague set to snatch the Tory crown

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

William Hague looked set to snatch the Conservative leadership crown last night, after Kenneth Clarke fell short of a 50-vote target set by close supporters for the first-round ballot.

The 36-year-old former secretary of state for Wales could now attract votes from left and right, as the only candi-date with the bandwagon potential to

unite the party.
In yesterday's leadership bout, John
Redwood - another former secretary of state for Wales - stunned colleagues by getting more votes than either of the other right-wing candidates, Peter Lilley and Michael Howard.

Barring surprises, it now looks as though Mr Clarke, Mr Hague and Mr Redwood will go through to next Tuesday's second-round ballot of the party's 164 MPs. Within minutes of the result being announced in a Commons corridor, Mr Redwood paged his campaign team with the message: "We're going all

the way. JR."

Mr Clarke came top of the first-round ballot, with 49 votes, but he was only a handful of votes ahead of Mr Hague, on 41. Mr Redwood came third, with 27, followed by Mr Lilley on 24, and Mr Howard on 23.

The combined total of 74 votes for the three right-wingers is not enough to secure victory for Mr Redwood, who resition to campaign for the second balquires at least \$3 votes next Tuesday.

In an appeal for Mr Howard and Mr Lilley to stand down, and unite behind him for the next round, Mr Redwood told BBC Radio 4's PM programme: "Both Michael and Peter or their camps indicated that they thought the fourth and fifth-placed candidate should drop out and support the third-placed can-

But it is entirely possible that MPs to expect when this campaign started.



Kenneth Clarke: Disappointment

from the Lilley and Howard camps will now begin to peel off in search of a win-ner - Mr Hague.

There were Tory fears last night that some right-wing MPs could make a tac-tical switch to Mr Clarke, in the hope of keeping division, and the leadership question, alive. Other MPs believe that if Mr Clarke is not elected, there is no place for them in the party, and they could resign the party whip.

Last night, however, there was every thing for Mr Hague, Mr Clarke and Mr

Redwood to fight for. Mr Hague said he had been pleased by his vote. "It gives me a very good polot on a platform to unite the party and

give the party a fresh start," he said. Having topped an opinion poll, and a ballot of constituency party officers announced in advance of yesterday's vote. Mr Clarke said: "I have today topped the poll in every test of Conservative opinion. I am very encouraged by the breadth of the support I have attracted, which is much stronger than I dared

The Conservative Party should now unite to fight Labour. 1 intend to seek to broaden my appeal further by setting out how I intend to lead this party on an inclusive basis. The leadership of the par-ty must attract and draw on the talents of every strand of opinion within the

Conservative tradition."

Mr Redwood said: "I am very pleased and I would like to thank all those who supported me even when the press wrote me off and down and out. Now we are going to have a bandwagon. Now we are going to win." He added that he would be "very generous" to Mr Lilley and Mr Howard. "I want them to be on side. I

want as many supporters as possible."

The former deputy chairman of the party, Lord Archer, who had been backing Mr Lilley, said: "I believe that both Peter Lilley and Michael Howard will make their own decisions as to what they will do but neither of them can win."

That view had earlier been underscored by the result of an advisory ballot of constituency party officers, which gave Mr Clarke 322 votes, Mr Hague 188, Mr Redwood 25, Mr Lilley 22, and Mr Howard just 10. But it was noticeable that while Mr Clarke woo a majority of the constituency votes cast, Mr Hague still got about a third.

Remarkably, only 61 per cent of Tory peers bothered to vote at all, but Mr Clarke got 177 of their votes to 45 for Mr Hague, 37 for Mr Lilley, 13 for Mr Redwood, and 10 for Mr Howard. All 17 Members of the European Par-

liament backed the former chancellor. The Commons was last night rife with rumours of backstairs deals and offers. Mr Redwood said of Mr Howard and Mr Lilley: "If Michael and Peter would like jobs in the shadow cabinet that I wish to form, yes, of course they can have jobs."

Further report, page 10 Leading article, page 19

Inquiry launched Yachtsmen spot into public health

EXCLUSIVE

by Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

An inquiry into why poor people die sooner than the rich is to be launched by the Government as part of a drive to highlight the impact of social issues

Ministers have been shocked by evidence showing that although the overall health of the nation is improving, the gap in death rates between rich and poor has widened. They have asked Sir Donald Acheson, former government chief medical officer, to produce an updated version of the Black report, setting out the scientific case on which policies to tackle health inequalities might be based.

The original Black report, commissioned by the last Labour government from consultant physician Sir Douglas Black and published in 1980, controversially linked deprivation with ill health and made a series of costly recommendations for alleviating poverty, improving housing and targeting NHS resources at the most needy.

itty simple

In spite of efforts by the Conservative government to bury it, it has continued to provoke fierce debate since

it was published. On Monday Sir Donald met Frank Dobson, the health secretary, Tessa Jowell, the minister for public health, and Sir Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer, to discuss terms of the review, expected by Christmas, Final details are still to be worked out and an announcement is not expected

until next month. Revival of the Black report is an ambitious venture fraught with political

risk. Tackling health inequalities will require the co-operation of all goverument departments and could incur high costs. Ministers are anxious to limit the review to proposals that have a realistic chance of being implemented. The original Black re-

port's recommendations were costed at £2bn at 1979 prices, equivalent to £5.4bn today.

Ministers have accepted that there is limited scope for change in the NHS and that abolishing the internal market will take years rather than months. The arena of public health is seen as the most fertile ground for innovation of the kind that the public has come

to expect of the new Government. Tessa Jowell said yesterday: "Tack-ling inequalities is what the health department should be about. We have asked Sir Donald to give us a very clear steer on the basis of the scientific evidence about where we can take effective action to improve people's health. We will then decide what measures to take."

She said the initiative was "not about empty rhetoric or developing wish lists" and would form a central part of the Government's strategy on public health which will be formally launched at a health department conference on 7 July. "We are not going to raise expectations that we cannot fulfil. We would rather under-promise than over-deliver."

The reason public health had been marginalised in the past was because the agenda seemed so vast and the

inequalities so pervasive that the prospect of doing anything over-whelmed the government. "We want to identify key measures across government departments that we can act

on," she said. The original Black report high-lighted the fact that the death rate in infancy was twice as high among social class V as social class I and that similar differences persisted through life. In 1994, research published in the British Medical Journal showed that death rates in the poorest parts of northern England were rising for men aged 15 to 44 for the first time since

Experts welcomed the review of the Black report but warned that action to remedy the problem was needed, not a new diagnosis of the causes.

Ken Judge, director of the Kings Fund Health Policy Institute, said: "What we don't want is another description of the problem. We need a careful analysis of the causes and an evaluation of policy options. My worry is that Sir Donald may pay more attention to the causes than the options."

Julian Le Grand, professor of health policy at the London School of Economics, said: "The real question is how much muscle the initiative will have behind it. Without a budget, it looks as if Tessa Jowell as the new minister of public health will have to rely on per-

"However, after 18 years in which the focus has been on organisational issues in the NHS, the switch to a focus on health rather than health care would be welcome."

What the doctor ordered, page 20

pirate whaling

Environment Correspondent

Yachtsmen crossing the Atlantic have found evidence which suggests a pirate whaling operation is underway, in de-fiance of the 10-year-old international moratorium on slaughtering the marine mammals.

carcasses attached to buoys and of others floating with what appear to be harpoons sticking out of them. Brad de Lange, Australian skipper of the yacht Globina, told The Independent yesterday that he saw a pod of whales surrounding a yellow buoy on

There have been reports of whale

31 May - one day's sailing from San Miguel Island in the Azores. As his boat neared the group, all but one submerged and swam away. The

breathing of the remaining whale was much quicker than the others, and it appeared to be attached to the buoy.



Initially baffled by what they had seen, the yacht's crew later concluded the whale had been left wounded and tethered to be picked up later. "What annoyed us is that it was such a horrible death for the thing," said Mr de Lange. "We hope whoever is behind

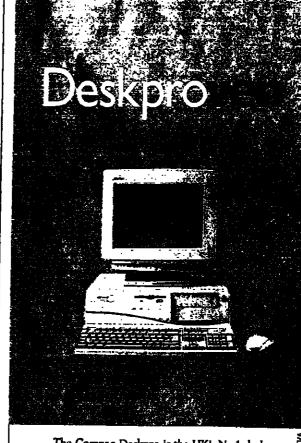
it is found and stopped." Herb Hilgenberg, a radio ham in Burlington, Ontario, heard from five yachts last month which reported floating whale carcasses in mid-Atlantic waters south west of the Azores. The first of these reports, on 12 May, said the whale was attached to a lit buoy.

Mr Hilgenberg, who gives transat-lantic yachtsmen safety advice on winds and weather forecasts, said the yachts were sufficiently far apart to be sure that they were reporting several carcasses and not just one.

Jeff King, English skipper of the yacht Tuesday Girl said: "I've been hearing reports by radio from other yachts of whales floating around dead with poles in them. We saw a decomposing carcass ourselves, covered in seabirds."

The reports were relayed to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, a small campaigning group based in Bath, by Bill Herbert, who runs a boat from the Azores which takes tourists to watch live whales and dolphins. The society believes the explanation for the sightings is a large, well planned pirate-whaling operation – but it has no idea where it is operating

The International Whaling Commission has no policing and enforcement powers. The pirate whalers could only be legally tackled once they came into port, providing the country they landed at had the necessary legislation in place - and most don't.



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Girl of 12 released A 12-year-old girl who has been held on remand at a jail on the Isle A 12-year-old girl who has been of Man for the past seven days was released into the care of a children's home last night. Page 7

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A STATE OF THE STA

significant shorts

Prescott leads 'green' **Cabinet committee**

John Prescon, the Deputy Prime Minister, will today chair his first meeting of a beefed-up "green" Cabinet committee with a broad remit to cover sustainable development, Tony Blair told leaders of

remit to cover sustainable development. Tony Blair told leaders or green pressure groups yesterday.

The Government will also go ahead with a manifesto commitment to set up a parliamentary environmental audit committee with MPs from all parties, able to question ministers and officials from all government departments about policy and performance.

In the meantime, Greenpeace, the environmental pressure group, announced it would seek a judicial review hearing against the Government if it did not halt a new round of oil exploration

the Government if it did not halt a new round of oil exploration and development in the North Sea and Atlantic. It believes that in allowing the oil companies to go ahead, the Government is in breach of two European Union directives protecting the environment and wildlife habitats.

Letters, page 19

Tory hospital schemes abandoned

Some of the Conservative government's privately financed hospital schemes are to be abandoned, it was announced yesterday.

Alan Milburn, the health minister, has invited MPs to make the case for their local schemes so that he can target resources more effectively. He will announce his decision at the end of the month. Projects will be graded according to how much they are needed, their sponsorship chances, and how far they have already

McAliskey case adjourned

The extradition application by the German government against 25-year-old Roisin McAliskey was adjourned until 8 July by Bow Street stipendiary magistrate Lorraine Morgan yesterday, after Ms McAliskey's solicitor, Gareth Peirce, told the court her client was unable to attend through illness. Mrs Morgan extended Ms McAliskey's conditional had until that data McAliskey's conditional bail until that date.

Ms Peirce told the court that the prognosis on Ms McAliskey was "completely unclear". Under the terms of her bail, Ms McAliskey, who gave birth to a baby daughter a fortnight ago, has been allowed to stay in an unnamed mother and baby unit rather than be returned to Holloway prison. She is wanted for questioning in Germany about the IRA bombing of the Osnabrück military base in June last year.

Patricia Wynn Davies

Police appeal over travelling rapist



Police yesterday issued a nationwide appeal to trace a sadistic serial rapist known to have struck at least five times in 13 years. The travelling attacker (seen

left in a photofit picture) is wanted for four rapes and one sex assault which have taken place in West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire since 1982. In all five attacks lone women were abducted at knifepoint from a

city-centre car park or street parking, driven by the attacker in their own cars away from the city centre, raped or sexually abused and then taken back to the same inner city area and abandoned. West Yorkshire Assistant Chief Constable Lloyd Clarke, in charge of Operation Lynx – which featured on Crimewatch UK on BBC1 last night – said detectives fear the man will strike again. "We are dealing with someone who is cool and sadistic," he said. The man is white and at least 35. He speaks with a Scottish accent, uses the words "lass" or "lassie" and re-emphasises his commands by saying: "Do you hear me?"

Burglary suspect 'dead on his feet'

A burglary suspect who hanged himself in a courthouse cell was "dead on his feet" when he was finally cut down by Securicor guards, an inquest was told yesterday.

An inquest at Hammersmith Coroners' Court, west London, has heard that the guards believed that Peter Austin, 30, was faking suicide because they noticed that his feet were touching the ground. They allegedly watched him hanging from the light-fitting for 10 minutes without taking any action. But Doctor Iain West, head of Pathology at Guy's Hospital, London, said yesterday: "A substantial minority of people who hang themselves have their feet on the ground ... People have hanged themselves from door handles.'

Mr Austin, of Hammersmith, was found dead in the cell below Brentford magistrates' court, west London, on 29 January after being charged with burglary. He was the first person to die in the custody of Securicor, the private security firm. The case continues. Kathy Marks

Jail cut for general's taxi assailant

Black nursery nurse Debbie Blaize had a year's jail sentence for punching a retired major general in the face cut to six months at the Court of Appeal yesterday. Lord Bingham, the Lord Chief Justice, said he made the cut partly because of the trial judge's remark that she had "cynically and dishonestly decided to play the race card" in claiming that she had been racially abused by her victim, Major General Richard Gerrard-Wright. The general, 69, who lives near Grantham in Lincolnshire, had told Southwark Crown Court that a "screaming creature" knocked him to the ground after he accused her of queue-jumping at a taxi rank. Blaize, from Southwark, south London, claimed she was the victim of a barrage of racist abuse from the general who, she said, told her she should go back to the jungle, and she had simply pushed him after he grabbed her neck.

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WEATHER

people



FINAL CURTAIN: Path LuPone (above) has again experienced a shattering disappointment in the West End.

Master Class, in which she plays diva Maria Callas, is to close after only a month. The play was supposed
to be a triumphant return, four years after she played Norma Desmond in Sunset Boulevard, and was not
chosen by Andrew Lloyd Webber for the Broadway transfer.

(Photograph: Geraint Lewis)

Women taste victory in battle to earn the same as men

oyce Pickering was celebrating a landmark legal victory yesterday after she and her 27 fellow female Council workers won a £400,000 settlement in an equal pay and sex discrimination case against Durham

and £15,000 in back-dated pay, compensation and rent allowances, and a 35 per cent increase in their wages, to bring them into line with male colleagues.

Ms Pickering, a warden at one of Durham's sheltered housing complexes, said: "We no longer feel undervalued and underpaid after going for years without being properly recognised for what we do. Today has been a great

The fight, begun two years ago, involved the women's assertion that wages for men and women should be identical. They also demanded a review of working hours, which had seen many working round the clock. Previously, the women had operated under a provin-

cial agreement which they and their union, the GMB, signed in 1988 but withdrew from when their action began. However yesterday's decision looks likely to throw the council's finances into chaos.

ity Council.

Brian Spears, Director of Housing and Health for Under the agreement the women, all care workers for Durham City Council, said: The council never said the the elderly, will receive a lump sum of between £10,000 claim was totally unreasonable. The implication from the and £15,000 in back-dated pay, compensation and rent council point of view is how to pay for the settlement. All along we have been pointing out our inability to find

But GMB national secretary, Mick Graham, called upon employers to take heed of the result. "Inability to pay is no defence in law," he said. "All similar cases we have run show very clearly that women have been discrimi-nated against. Their work has been of equal value but they have been paid less."

Mr Graham explained that the cost of ensuring wage parity throughout the UK job market had been estimated at £1,000m, but suggested that the trend towards equal pay for both sexes was unremitting. James Mellor

The novelist Graham Greene (right) lost huge sums of money in a money-laundering racket run by the Hollywood maffa which led to him living in tax exile after an "agreement" with the Inland Revenue, according to a controversial new biography.
In The Quest for Graham

Greene burnt

his fingers in

US cash scam

Greene, author WJ West contrasts the writer's anti-Americanism with his unwitting involvement - and that of others such as Charlie Chaplin - in the illegal scams.

"it must have been acutely embarrassing for Chaplin and Greene, with their political sympathies, to have been caught up in the seediest backwaters of international capitalism," writes Mr West, who says the author thought he was merely using tax avoidance

The book also reveals that

Low W will move

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WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,do

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The British Isles

General Situation and Outlook:

England and Wales will start in a damp fash-

ion with thundery rain in the north and east. The rain should clear away during the morning with many places brightening up for a time with some warm sunshine. However, heavy

showers will develop with localised heavy

thundery downpours by this afternoon. North-

ern Ireland should slowly become drier after a wet start. Southern Scotland will have heavy

bursts of thundery rain this morning, and this

wet weather may reach northern Scotland by

warm with some sunny spells and heavy show

ers. Friday will be another unsettled day with

sunshine and scattered sharp showers; the

showers heaviest in the north. On Saturday

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there should be fewer showers and some better, more prolonged sunny periods, but it will

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Southampton

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Tiree York

S England Wales C England N England Scotland

the end of the day. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showery bursts of rain tomorrow, although

eastern regions of Northern Ireland and southern counties of Scotland should see a lit-tle sunshine. England and Wales will be fairly



Greene had been a member of a communist cell at Oxford, the first student group of its kind, and that the security services were unaware of this when he later joined MI6. This may have been because his uncle. Sir Graham Greene, who was close to both Naval Intelligence and Mi6, had "wiped the slate clean".

Greene's near-obsession with Catholicism, the book says

Europe and The World

stemmed not from his desire to marry his Catholic wife, Vivien, but from youthful hero worship of figures such as the Irish nationalist Michael Collins and his support for the Catholic community in the Palatinate as a young man.

Novelist and author Mr West, who has also written about Geom Orwell and his work at the BBC, said yesterday he regarded Greene as one of the most important figures in British literature this century, and possibly ever.

"You have to go back a long way to find a writer who was so closely involved in the politics and life of this country.

He is a far more serious figure In the political history of the 20th century than has been realised," said Mr West, whose book is published by Weldenfeld & Nicolson on 23 June.

The book explores Greene's lasting relationship with the spy Kim Philby, and reveals that they had a common bond; each had a relative who was locked up on suspicion of having fascist tendencies in the Second World War.

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Sydney Venice Vienna

Warsaw Washington Wellington Zurich

Hull (Albert Dock) 10.52 7.8 23.29 7.4

Michael Streeter AA Roadwatch

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notice. Greater Manchester, <u>A62</u>7 Bardsky, Temp lights on Ash-ton Ru Menseyside, AS67 Bootk, Stanley Rd closed north-bound until further notice. Tyne & Wear, A19 Newcas-tle area. Roadworks at

Killingworth. West Yorks, M.I. 147, Major North Yorks, A19 Thorn-aby-on-Tees Roadworks. Out and about with AA Roadwatch cal 0336 40: maffic news. Source: the Asso-mobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per minute at all times (inc VAT).

briefing

MoD admits firing the wrong sort of bullets

Soldiers and police in Northern Ireland have been firing faulty plastic bullets for the past three years, the Ministry of Defence admitted yesterday. The batch of 284,500 plastic baton rounds was withdrawn in April after tests revealed that a third of them were firing faster than the permitted maximum of 156 miles per hour.

During last summer's disturbances in the province, a total of 9,000 rounds of plastic bullets were fired both by the army and by

the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

MoD sources said yesterday that they believed about 100 people had been injured by the weapons in the past three years, but civil liberties campaigners put the total much higher. There are three outstanding compensation claims, but it is thought unlikely that the claimants will be able to prove the bullets which hit them were faulty.

In a written Parliamentary answer, the Defence Minister, John Spellar, said that the Government would keep the use of plastic bullets under continuous review. In future stocks would be tested regularly to ensure that they continue to conform to specification, he added.

SOCIETY

US ready for black president

A comprehensive survey of racial attitudes in the United States has found that the vast majority of white Americans would now be prepared, for the first time, to vote for a black president. It even suggests that whites would be slightly more willing (93 per cent against 91 per cent) to vote for a "suitably qualified" black than would blacks the meabors.

would blacks themselves.

The proportion of whites saying that they would be willing to elect a black to the White

House has doubled in the past 30 years and is up from 77 per cent 10 years ago. Black opinion has remained stable over the same period.

This change, which is attributed in part to the emergence – in General Colin Powell (right) – of a black politician who appeals across racial lines is the most positive finding in a wide-ranging poll of racial attitudes conducted by Gallup. Mary Dejevsky



PREJUDICE

Gays' mental health discrimation

Lesbians and gay men are living in a "climate of fear", experiencing physical assault, verbal abuse and discrimination when they use mainstream mental health services.

Research by the mental health charity Mind found that nearly three-quarters had experienced prejudice and discrimination and more than one in five suffering physical and sexual violence.

More than half said that staff had used their homosexuality to explain their mental health problems and had been told they might have fewer problems if they were heterosexual.

"Despite the fact that homosexuality has not been listed as a mental health problem for over 20 years, it is clear that many mental health professionals still consider homosexuality to be a mental illness," said Judi Clements, chief executive of Mind. Gienda Cooper

HEALTH

Cervical cancer affects the young

Cervical cancer is occurring more often in younger women, although the overall number of cases is in decline, research shows. The disease, the second most common cancer in women, is now peaking in women aged 30-39, compared with a peak in women aged 45-59 in the early 1970s, according to a study in *The Journal of Medical Screening*.

The study also shows the disease is changing. Cases of one type of cervical cancer - adenocarcinoma - are four times higher than in 1971, but cases of squamous cell carcinoma are gradually decreasing. Adenocarcinoma is difficult to spot in the pre-invasive stage and may be underdiagnosed as a result, the researchers from the University of Cambridge say. **Jeremy Laurance**

Sweet-toothed Britons in decline

Sugar consumption fell to a 20-year low in the first quarter of the year as Britons became increasingly health-conscious about their

New government figures show that at the start of the year we ate more green vegetables, fruit, eggs and skimmed milk, and less fatty food. Yet we are spending 13 per cent more than last year on alcoholic drinks, soft drinks and sweets, according to the latest National Food Survey (NFS), covering the first quarter of 1997.

The survey also shows that household consumption of beef has recovered completely from the BSE scare of last year. Compared to the same period in 1996, when the government announced a possible link between "mad cow disease" and the fatal buman illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), beef consumption was 5 per cent higher, continuing an upward trend over the past nine

TRANSPORT

Drivers fill up on a crash diet

Nearly half of motorists admit to eating and driving, and most of the food consumed is of the junk variety, according to a survey published today. Crisps, chips and chocolate are favoured by munching motorists, the Autoglass research found.

Autoglass spokesman Andy Edyrean said: "It's astonishing to think drivers are bombing along busy roads with a burger or kebab in one hand. It's a crash diet – an accident waiting to happen."

The survey showed that a typical driver's on-the-road monthly menu included six bags of crisps, six chocolate bars, six bags of sweets, three sandwiches, two pies, two burgers, a bag of chips, a doughnut and a kebab.



THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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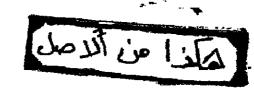
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its firing the t of bullets Cookson saves art gallery

black president

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Sale and a second of the Children

et to ever for a picture president

realth discrimation

The writer Dame Catherine Cookson has saved the Hatton Gallery in Newcastle from closure, the day after a decision was made to withdraw

The best-selling author of The Black Candle, The Mallen Streak and Feathers in the Fire, who has sold more than 100million copies in 17 languages, has pledged £50,000 a year for the next five years in order to keep the gallery open.

to the amount of the second of On Monday night the university council decided to cease funding the to 14-12) (Fri ifft) ming fe aff gallery, which has been in existence since 1926 and contains works by, among others, Kurt Schwitters, Goya and Francis Bacon.

The university ascribed its decision to budgetary constraints. It has to make cuts of 6 per cent across the next three years and closing the gallery would make a saving of approximately £45,000.

James Wright, the vice-chancellor, said: "I am most delighted with this rapid and remarkable response by Dame Catherine Cookson which sets the university well on the way to securing the future of the Hatton Gallery." The university now aims to raise £100,000 a year to create sufficient funds to "revitalise" the gallery as a "vibrant contribution to the region's arts provision".

The decision to close the gallery had been a controversial one, with sup-

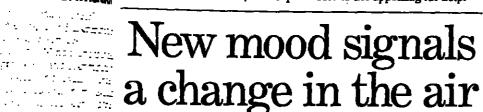
porters of the gallery claiming that the benefits of keeping it open far outweighed any benefits made by the saving. Bill Variey, a fine art lecturer who helped head the campaign, had de-scribed closing the gallery as "like having a medical school and saying you're removing the operating theatres." لكذا من الاما

Yesterday he was overjoyed at the news that it would remain open. "God bless her, it's the most marvellous, generous thing," he said. "This is exactly a five-year breathing space to get the thing back on track and attract lottery funding." Mr Varley added.

It is the latest of many donations made by the bedridden Dame Catherine, who suffers from a blood disorder and is nearly blind. She has given money to the university before, to the library and medical school,

Last month the renowned benefactor, who at one point created her own charitable foundation, donated £50,000 to ex-servicemen who suffered illness after being involved with nuclear tests. The 90-year-old novelist made the gift to help to fund an independent study after learning of the veterans' distrust of government-sponsored health surveys.

Last year she helped to revive an independent school that closed because of falling pupil numbers, donating more than £40,000 towards the cost of leasing a new site for Charters Ancaster College, after parents



Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Land Control of

Gesta E British Airways did not actually use the words "New Labour, new airline yesterday," but the implication was unequivocal yesterday, as the world's favourite carrier launched its new r affects the your £60m image.

At a media jamboree billed as the

a mage for the airline, linked to a new mood in the nation.

"There's a noticeable note of change trager . . hargan the de in the air. There's a new air about the country. We even beat my friends at Qantas at their great game, which is now our great game.

It took John Prescott, the deputy lerer 2 prime minister, to ram home the analogy. "We can all think of major international companies which have stood still and declined. You have to Britons in decime be prepared to change, to reposition.

Dare I say it, New Labour saw that,"

he said at the launch. But as he spoke, "Old Labour" flexed its muscles as the Transport and General Workers Union sent out strike ballot papers to 5,000 ground staff at Heathrow and Manchester. The dispute is over BA's plans to sell off or out-source departments such : as catering and aircraft servicing.

BA claimed the unions were going back on a landmark deal buying out restrictive working practices at Heathrow. Mr Ayling said the strike ballot was very disappointing. "Our new identity is about jobs; it's about training. People who talk about a 'vir-tual airline' don't know what they're talking about."

The re-launch, backed by a £6bn

world's biggest ever satellite link-up, investment programme over the lift is the results BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, next three years, is one of the bolders make a charact a weak painted a less "arrogant", less "self-est by any global company. Gone is the conservative logo used since before privatisation in 1984. BA's new identity positions the airline as "a cit-izen of the world," recognising that 60 per cent of passengers come from outside the UK.

More than 50 different designs representing ethnic communities will grace the tailfins of BA's 300 aircraft, with only the seven Concordes still using a variation on the Union flag. "Airlines are extraordinarily chauvinistic. This is our attempt to break out of the chauvinism of the

past," Mr Ayling explained.
The London design consultants
Newell and Sorrell spent two years on the concept, which will continue through check in desks, ticket wallets and even staff outfits. They tracked down over 2,000 artists and craft workers from Hong Kong to Poland and Southern Africa to Cornwall.



Simply divine: The Crouch End Festival Chorus performing in Wroclaw, Poland. The choir of amateurs, which includes teachers, stockbrokers and factory workers, has enjoyed unexpected success in America with an album reaching 13 in the US charts

Choir from Crouch End hits all the right notes in the US

David Lister Arts Editor

An amateur choir made up of psychotherapists, teachers and stockbrokers from north London has reached number 13 in the American Billboard charts with an album of choral music,

The success has come as a shock to the 130 singers from the London suburh of Crouch End, who received session fees amounting to £9,000 between them for the album. Cinema Choral Classics.

The men and women of the Crouch End Festival Chorus meet to sing every week at a local secondary school and in the 13 years since the choir was formed have built up a strong reputation, giving concerts at the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican Centre.

But they have never had a week like this week. An album of choral music used in movies such as The Mission and The Omen, recorded at sessions over two years, went straight in at number 13 in Billboard's classical crossover chart. It also reached number 20 in the classical crossover charts here.

David Temple, the orchestra's conductor and co-founder, said yesterday: "It's wonderful news. I know people will look at our name and think that it's something dowdy and suburban, but we are one of London's best choirs. We have toyed with the idea of changing the name, but we decided to stick with it as it's where we come from.

"We haven't got any plans +to tour America; but if-the album keeps going up, then it would be rather nice to go over to the States." At present, he said, the

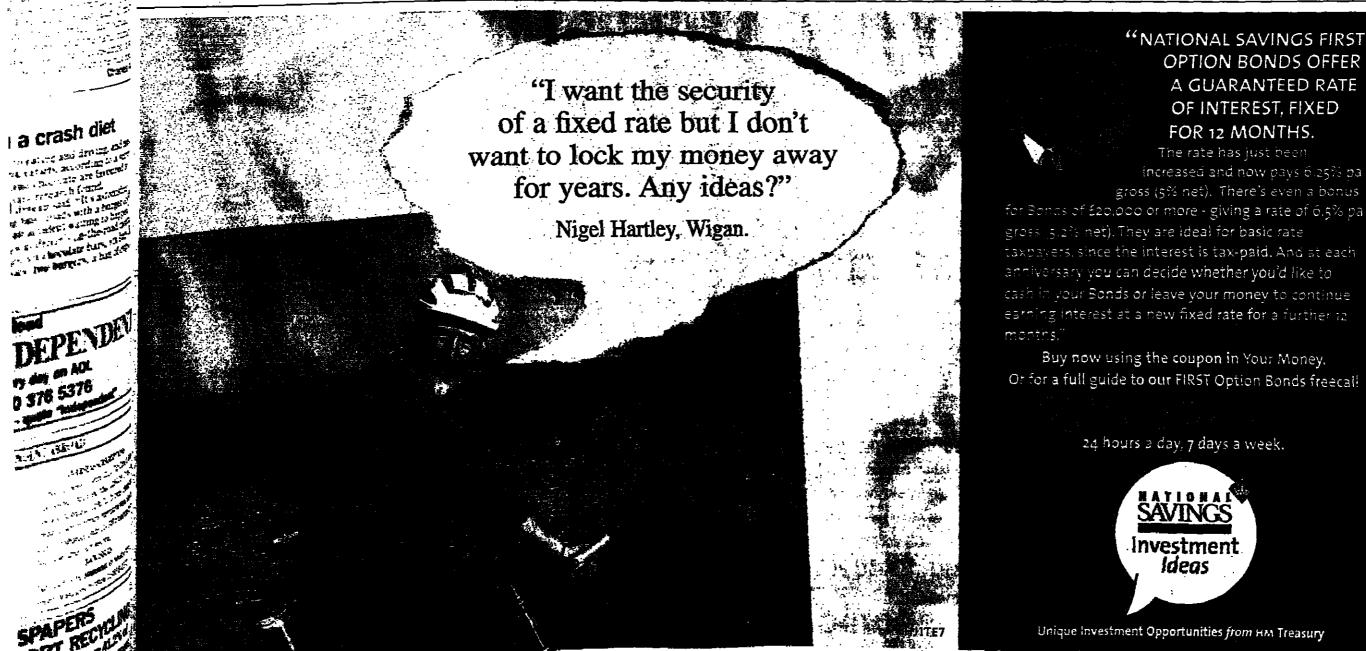
choir just gets paid session fees for its recordings, but he added: "In future we may think about a royalties deal."

He said all the members of the choir were amateurs. Their day jobs included psychotherapists, teachers, city workers, shopkeepers and factory workers.

The record's producer,

James Fitzpatrick, of Silva Screen Records, said yesterday that when he first signed the choir, his managing director wanted them to change their name

but they refused. "In America the radio stations are more interested in the films like The Omen. They don't mind what the name of the choir is."



Aitken is accused of 13 lies over Ritz

Kim Sengupta

Former Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken was yesterday accused in the High Court of telling a web of 13 lies over his stay at the Paris Ritz

George Carman, QC, for the defence said Mr Aitken's version "produced 13 matters which added together show a catalogue of coincidence of such improbability as to be preposterous. It is such a catalogue of coincidence that it is tainted."

Mr Aitken, the former Defence Procurement Minister and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is suing The Guardian and Granada TV, the makers of World In Action, over allegations that he was in the "pocket" of powerful Saudi interests, pimped for Arabs, and was involved in secret arms deals.

He claims that his controversial stay at the Paris Ritz in September 1993 was during a trip to see his daughter settled at a Swiss school. The payment of his hotel bill by the Saudi Prince Mohammed was an "unfortunate muddle

Mr Carman has told Mr Justice Popplewell, hearing the libei action without a jury, that Mr Aitken's acceptance of such hospitality from a son of the Saudi king would have directly contravened the guidelines on ministerial conduct.

Turning to the payment of the hotel bill Mr Carman listed what he alleged were 13 lies. They include the following:

The Ritz got his registration form wrong by allocating his bill to Saudi businessman Said Ayas, either by a deliberate set-up or a mistake.

He offered his credit card on arrival but it was rejected, and he never discovered the method which should used to pay the bill. Mr Aitken never asked for a bill at anytime and his wife, by mistake, paid half of it and

got what he called a receipt — but in fact it was the last page of Mr Ayas's bill.

Mr Aitken's close friend, Mr Ayas, never told him that Prince Mohammed was paying the en-tire bill and concealed that fact for two years after the event.

Mr Aitken told the Cabinet Secretary in March 1994 that his wife had paid his bill and had a receipt for it, that statement being untrue and designed to mislead the official.

Mr Aitken copied that letter to John Major knowing it was untrue, and did not attempt to correct the deceptions until compelled to produce the documents 14 days later after Mr Major intervened and suggested the receipt be send to The Guardian.

In April 1994 Mr Aitken told the Cabinet Secretary Mr Ayas's nephew Abdul Rahman, had overpaid his bill and had confirmed that to Mr Aitken.

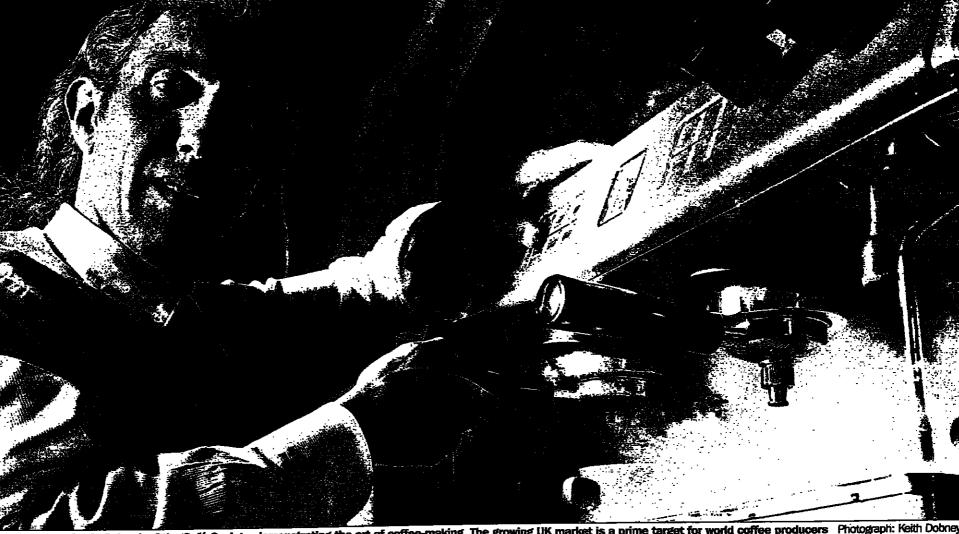
Mr Rahman had received Mr Aitken's cheque but pursuant to Mr Aitken's "conspiratorial agreement" with Mr Ayas and banked it, although not entitled to a penny of it. while not informing Mr Aitken.

Mr Aitken had a conversation with Prince Mohammed while at the Ritz about a possible defence contract to do with four British submarines, but did not reveal that until the inquiry, in October 1994, into other allegations.

At the end of presenting that list to the court, Mr Carman

said: "When you add up that catalogue of improbabilities, do you not realise how scandalously incredible, and how preposterous, your story is?"
Mr Aitken responded: "No,

I don't realise any such thing ... I completely reject the flamboyant allegations made during those 13 points and, above all, at the end of those 13 points."



ver: Louie Salvoni, of the Café Society, demonstrating the art of coffee-making. The growing UK market is a prime target for world coffee producers Photograph: Keith Dobney

ffee becomes new currency of crime

lan Burrell

The jar of instant coffee has suddenly become a desirable trading commodity for loan sharks and small-time drug dealers in a trend which mirrors the surge in demand for coffee on the in-

ternational markets. A sharp rise in the price of instant coffees has made them a target for thieves who are stealing to order to pay off their debts from high-interest loans or drugs. The British Retail Consor-

tium and the National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) said yesterday that the pattern had been identified in cities across Britain. Michael Schuck, the consor-

tium's assistant director of retail crime, said: "People see coffee going up in the shops and it becomes more of a marketable commodity than other goods like shampoos, batteries buying by speculators which

or razors. Coffee is a fairly expensive commodity. You can quite easily steal four jars of coffee and put them in a coat, a bag or underneath a baby.

Mr Schuck, a former police officer, said there was an organised racket in large drums of instant coffee being stolen to order from supermarket shelves. "They are sold on to hotels, restaurants and cafes," he said. Harry Fletcher, assistant gen-

eral secretary of Napo, said that such pilfering had recently been reported in Bradford, Merseyside, London and Greater Manchester. "This stealing of coffee is a new idiosyncratic twist to a long-standing scandal of steal-ing to order. Debtors are being encouraged to shoplift whichever goods are currently the most easy to fence."

Extreme cold weather in Brazil has hit coffee production this year, triggering a frenzy of

Coffee prices New York "C" contract, cents per lb and Nescafe Gold Blend, £ per 100g jar New York price left scale, cents/

has forced prices to a 20-year high. Forecasts of more cold weather led to another 7 per cent rise on the New York market yesterday, where coffee closed at 253.30 cents a pound. compared to less than 100 cents in December. At one point late last month, the price reached 318 cents, the highest level

since the 1970s when freezing

weather forced Brazilian producers to relocate entire coffee

plantations to warmer areas. As a result of the increase. the price of coffee also rose in the shops. Nestlé put up the price of its 100g jars of Gold Blend by 17p to £2.54 late last

The price rises have done little to arrest the coffee revolution which has led to a boom in
American-style coffee houses ers, the jar of instant has become so sought-after in some areas and Italian espresso bars.

The Seattle Coffee Compa-

ny will this week open its 24th branch, only two years after two Seattle exiles set up their first shop in Covent Garden. It now has outlets in Edinburgh, Glas-gow, Birmingham, Cambridge and Swindon.

Louie Salvoni, vice-chairman of the Café Society, which represents the ground coffee industry, said: "The UK market is being targeted by all the major coffee producers of the world because of its potential. We are still European-led in our taste and profile but there is a movement towards latte because of the advent of Amer-

ican coffee concepts." Yet while the coffee cognoscenti argue over the relative merits of robusta and arabica beans and the price of cappuccino and espresso mak-

that is being placed under protection.

In one shop in Greenock, near Glasgow, so many jars have been stolen that they are placed out of reach alongside the warning: "Coffee behind counter due to criminal activity." Tom Ward, a solicitor in the

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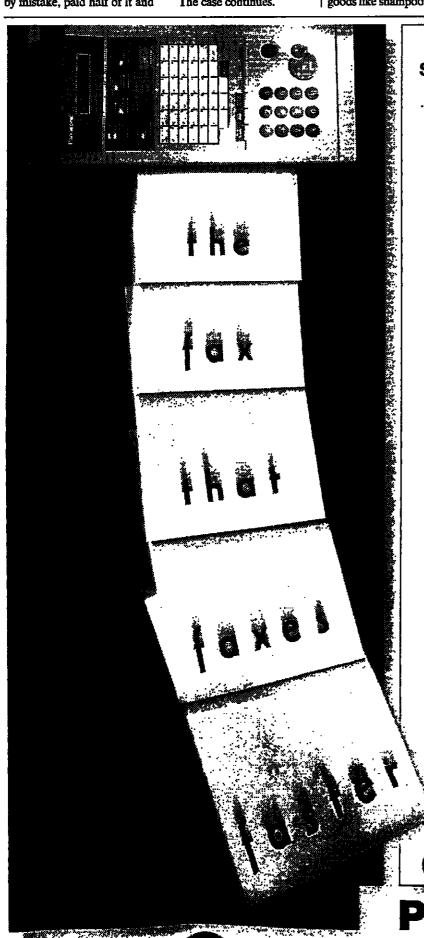
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town, has had to represent a succession of clients arrested after stealing jars of coffee to order as a way of paying off He said: "The price of coffee

is such now that it's expensive. it's easy to lift and easy to sell on. That's the attraction

Last week, as a young mother accused of shoplifting seven jars of high quality coffee appeared before a court in Greenock, the sheriff Sir Stephen Young, exclaimed: "Oh



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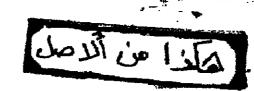
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English come bottom of class in maths

Judith Judd **Education Editor**

English nine-year-olds are trailing pupils in the rest of the world in maths but outstripping most of them in science, according to an international

study published vesterday.

Tests showed that English nine-year-olds came 10th out of17, lagging far behind their contemporaries in Pacific Rim countries and in Eastern

Nearly half of English pupils could not answer the question what is five fewer than 203. Ironically, a higher proportion of them thought they were good at maths than in those

In science, however, only four countries did better, and 13 per cent of English pupils were in the international top 10 per

in maths was published six years ago. England was level with countries such as the United States, Canada and Ireland. Now it has slipped behind them.

By contrast, in science it has pulled ahead of both Hungary and Hong Kong since 1984.

Maths:

Korea

Japan

Ireland

Canada

Scotland

England

Cyprus

Norway

Greece

Portugal

celand

Singapore

Hong Kong

United States

New Zealand

Czech Republic

bounds.

even action

How the countries performed

Science:

United States

Czech Rep

England

Canada

treland :

Norway Iceland

Greece

Portugal

Cyprus .

Scotland

Hong Kong

New Zealand

Singapore

Korea

tional Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), who carried out the study in England, suggested that the poor performance in maths might be explained by larger class sizes than most countries in the survey, except for Japan and Singapore, and by less whole class teaching, less homework and greater use of calculators than

so in maths.

lish schools.

published last year.

to those for 13-year-olds in the first part of the study, which was

In science, pupils were above

the global average in all four ar-

eas: earth science, life science.

physics and environmental

Dr Seamus Hegarty, the

The improved performance in science might be explained by the extra time devoted to science since the introduction of the national curriculum and extra training given to primary teachers.

elsewhere.

The length of time spent on maths is unlikely to be the reacountries which topped the son why English pupils are struggling. Time spent on maths is higher than in most other countries, though less than in Singapore, which tops the world maths league.

Scotland did slightly better When the last similar study than England in maths but worse in science.
Around 175,000 nine-year-

foundation's director, warned of olds in more than 4,000 schools the difficulties of making inin 26 countries took part in the ternational comparisons. In survey, the Third Internation-Norway, for instance, children al Maths and Science Study, bedo no start school until they are lieved to be the largest of its seven and in some countries a kind ever compiled. No western European coun-

> Estelle Morris, the school standards minister, said: "This survey shows only too clearly how much we have to do to raise standards in maths. "And it highlights how right we are to concentrate on basic skills in the primary years."

significant proportion of less

able nine-year-olds is kept

An example of the maths questions included in survey: Question 1: Write this addition fact: 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 20 – as a multiplication fact. Answer: $5 \times 4 = 20$, or 4×5

Question 2: Four children measured the width of a room by counting how many paces it took them to cross it.

The chart shows their measurements. Stephen 10, Edward 8, Anna 9, Charles 7. with competitor countries, minis-



Food for thought: David Blunkett having Junch at Blatchington Mill School yesterday

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Blunkett chips away at school menus

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

الملاا من الاما

David Blunkett yesterday revealed his long-cherished plan to introduce mandatory nutritional standards for schools meals and then went off to meet children who eat chips with

The Secretary of State for Education outlined his plans for well-balanced meals" at the constant junk food.

opening session of the Unison public service union annual conference in Brighton, and then encountered the reality of children's' diets when he went for lunch at Blatchington Mill comprehensive school at near-

Mr Blunkett, a Unison member, said he was not declaring war on chips - one of his sons was a "chip fanatic" - but on

by Hove.

He told 2,500 Unison dele- compared with 64 per cent in headteacher Neil Hunter was gates: "For nearly 18 years we have seen the quality of school dinners deteriorate and the number of children eating them drop significantly. Yet a balanced diet is crucial to their health and wellbeing. If you are hungry and have a poor diet it

is difficult to concentrate and to learn effectively." Mr Blankett said last year only 43 per cent of children took school meals

1979. "For some, a school dinner is the only real meal a child gets in the day. It needs to be a decent meal, not junk," "I do not want to declare war

school children eat chips three times a week and we need to make sure that alternatives are also made attractive. During the visit to the 1.500-

pupil Blatchington Mill School.

on chips, but on average our

asked about his pupils' preferences. "Chips are very popular," he replied. "It would be wrong of me to say anything else - oh ves, and sticky buns.

The Education Secretary said he had learnt his radicalism in his own school canteen. "We had sausages three times a week. while the headteacher tucked into steak. It was my first intro-

Back to basics with daily dose of three Rs

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Primary schools are to be encouraged to set aside an hour every day to teach children reading and writing to help boost standards in the three Rs. As an international study confirmed British pupils' poor per-

formance in the basics compared

ways of teaching maths.
Schools minister Estelle

Morris vesterday called for urgent action to address poor literacy and numeracy in primary schools and asked curriculum experts to advise schools on how to give a "sharper tocus" to the three Rs. Trainee teachers would be schooled in "tradi-

tional" teaching methods. However, she stressed the

subject national curriculum. which ministers have pledged will remain unchanged for children up to 14 until 2000.

Teaching unions yesterday welcomed moves to concentrate on the basics, but warned against excessive government interference in the classroom.

The National Association of Head Teachers cautioned against any attempt to pre-

General secretary David Hart said most primary schools already ensured reading and writing took up a significant proportion of the timetable. "It is the quality of the teach-

ing rather than the time spent which counts," he said. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said teachers "do not wish to see a return to the bad

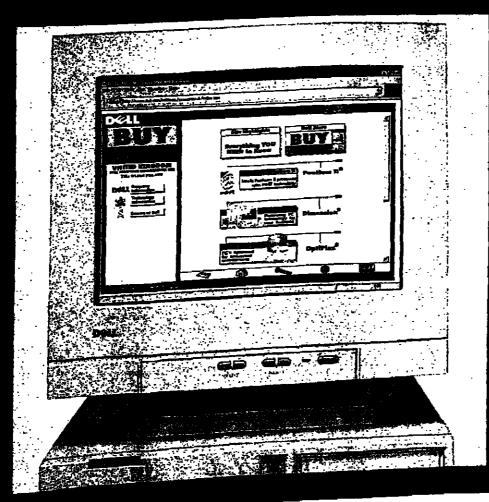
old days of imposition from the

conference held by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), insisted the Government had no intention of dictating how, or what schools should teach. However, she made clear

Ms Morris, addressing a

that a daily literacy hour, recommended last February by a Literacy Task Force set up by Labour while in opposition, was looked upon favourably by ministers.

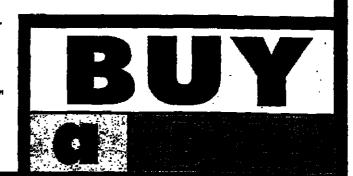
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Satanic abuse report runs wild on the Net

Charles Arthur Science Editor

A county council is struggling to prevent the rapid spread on the Internet of a leaked report which strongly criticises its handling of allegations of satanic abuse of children in the 1980s.

Nottinghamshire County Council has already served injunctions against four people, including a co-author of the 30,000-word report and three journalists, preventing them from reproducing or disseminating the report, claiming they are breaching copyright.

But yesterday at least six computers in four countries on the global computer network were carrying the full text of the

of social workers in the county. Such "mirroring" is common among users of the Net to prevent the banning of material; a page can be copied and loaded onto a computer in moments, establishing a new presence.

Alistair Kelman, a British lawyer specialising in electronic copyright law, said last night: "Once something's been published on the Net, that's it. It's out there. After all, the network was designed to withstand a nuclear attack; it can probably survive Nottinghamshire County Council."

The council is trying, though. In a move which has surprised experts, it has even claimed that "hyperlinks", electronic pointers to other sites on the Web. can breach copyright. Hyperlinks are a standard tool connecting the millions of pages of data on the Web, often pointing between competing com-panies. Mr Kelman said: "If they win that point then it means the collapse of the Net - the whole

collapse of the Net – the whole thing depends on links."

The three journalists, Nick Anning, David Hebditch and Margaret Jervis, put the content of the Joint Enquiry Team (JET) report into the 1988 Broxtowe Case on to a British site on the World Web at the end of last month. Under the inon 3 June. The injunction will be challenged in the High Court

The JET report investigated the handling of satanic ritual abuse claims against children, and concluded that social workers had been too prepared to believe children over police.

was disastrous". The report was originally intended for dissemination among social workers and police who might learn from its lessons. The council subsequently decided not to publish it, though the social workers involved were free to put their own views through the media and in public meetings.

In an earlier commentary on the report, the three journalists noted the number of alleged "satanic abuse" cases which cropped up in the UK after the report had been written. A number of those led to children being removed from their parents and being taken into care. "If the JET report had been made more widely available to social workers and po-lice in 1990, would these cases have been handled differently?" they asked.

Besides contacting the British site, the Nottinghamshire county solicitor has e-mailed Jeremy Preeman, owner of a Canadian Web site carrying the text of the report, demanding he remove it. Though Mr Freeman complied, the solicitor contacted him again to demand he remove a "hyperlink" to another site with the report, also on the ba-sis of copyright. The solicitor's

letter said the hyperlink to a site in the US "is still publication" and would constitute breach of copyright. Nottinghamshire County Council declined to comment yesterday on its reasons for

suppressing the report's publi-cation or its decision to describe hyperlinks as copyrightable. One source there said the council was anxious that the children involved in the Broxtowe case. One conclusion comments: now in their teens, should not "The use of satanic indicators, which appeared so convincing, raked over in public.

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Bullies sentenced

Two teenage girls sent to a de-spend the rest of their sentence yesterday for their part in a savlast night travelling to Scotland's

only women's prison. Michelle McBratney, 17, and Lee Ann Murray, 16, were OI LEWIS TO SDEE in Inverness before being transferred today to the young offenders unit at Cornton Vale Prison in Stirlingshire. The

cides among inmates recently.

tention centre for three months in the adjacent young offenders unit, subject to an appeal. The age gang attack on a schoolmate Scottish Prison Service has who later killed herself, were pointed out there are no youth detention centres in Scotland.

Earlier, Sheriff Ian Cameron told the pair at Stornaway Sherriff Court that they had "evilflown from Stornoway on the ly taken it on themselves to son, 16, could not safely walk the

streets of Stornoway. her bedroom in Stornoway in Febprison has seen a number of sui-ruary last year. In a suicide note she said bullying by certain girls The two girls are expected to had become too much for her.

DAILY POEM

The Moment

By Hilary Davies

That was the moment when, closing The wicket gate behind me, I knew That nothing would ever be the same again. I knew I could wait before turning, Very slowly, to look back: An eternity to note precisely How the falling sun would sketch The branches, trace the millinery Of the leaves. And then to turn So slowly, looking backwards At the glory of that other life Lived not knowing what would come, Before the eye of the storm passing Over our heads brings us the world's Enormity, its frailness, driving And driving the exquisite spike Of ecstasy into our lives.

This poem appears in Hilary Davies's second collection, In a Valley of This Restless Mind: the volume's title sequence recounts the tragic love affair of Abelard and Héloise. It is published (price £7.95) by Enitharmon Press at 36 St George's Avenue, London N7 0HD.

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CALLEGE CETALL

Girl of 12 released from Manx prison

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Jason Bermetto Crime Correspondent

A 12-year-old girl who has been held on remand at an Isle of Man jail for the past seven days was released into the care of a children's home last

It also emerged that the girl who faces nine charges of assault and criminal damage has been crying and shouting while at the prison in the

island's capital Douglas. In addition, it has been revealed

that a 14-year-old boy has been sent back to the Victoria Road jail on remand after breaking his bail conditions. A 16-year-old boy is already serving a 32 week sentence at the five-cell juvenile annexe.

The girl's lawyer said last night that the child, who is described as very disturbed, was "happy and pleased" to be leaving the Victorian prison.

The island's social services have agreed to provide extra staff and 24hour surveillance to ensure the girl is kept secure at Cummal Shee chil-

14, and the remainder were aged 15 A "deemster" - an Isle of Man

In the past three years there have

been 31 cases, some involving repeat

offenders, of juveniles aged up to 16

being jailed on the Isle of Man. The

youngest was aged 12 five were aged

jailing of children,

dren's home in Douglas. The U-turn the home had refused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied. She is accused to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yesterday re-out unaccompanied to take her the court in Douglas yeste because it does not have a secure unit leased the girl, who cannot be named - follows a furore caused by the pubfor legal reasons, on custody and lication in The Independent about the bailed her to reappear in court to-

> It is understood that the conditions of bail are that she must stay at the home at all times and only leave with a member of staff.

When the girl appeared before a court last week she was said to be in moral danger, but was jailed after she refused to accept conditions that she of assaulting members of staff at the

The Isle of Man does not have a specialist secure unit, and children as young as ten can, under Mant law, be sent to a special annexe at the adult jail. This practice was condemned as "barbaric" by civil liber-

Terence McDonald, the girl's lawyer, yesterday criticised the police for charging the girl. "The po-

cumstances of juveniles and are fairs minister, said plans to redevelop treating child offenders like adults, They are exaggerating the juvenile delinquency by charging so many young people.

Commenting on the decision by social services to provide extra staff at the children's home, he said: "I welcome it but feel it is a great pity that something could not have been done sooner. There is desperate need for a separate secure unit for children."

Allan Bell, the island's home afthe prison were being considered and were likely to include moving the juvenile annexe away from the main jail. And he added: "The prison officers are trained specifically to look after youngsters and have a different method of approach to them than they would the regular prisoners.

"I inherited a situation I can do nothing about. I have to live with what I have got,"

Islanders take moral umbrage at criticism

News that a 12-year-old girl was being incarcerated in a Victonan jail on the Isle of Man provokéd an unusual response from the islanders.

Many of those who telephoned a local radio chat show were outraged and angry at what had happened.

However, their fury was not at the island's continued practice of imprisoning children, but at the uppity British media and do-gooders for interfering, and against one of their own inhabitants for breaking ranks and going public on a practice he described as a "scandal" and "bar-

The 72,000 residents of the craggy island,16 miles off the Scottish coast in the Irish Sea, have been thrown into a heated debate since The Independent revealed last Saturday that a 12-year-old girl was being held on remand on charges of assault and criminal damage at a prison annexe. Under Manx law children as young as 10 can be de-tained at the island's only jail.

Rosemary Crosby, the gov-ernor of the Victoria Road prison in Douglas, said: "English people do not understand that we hear reports all time about 'ratboy' and other 14- and 15-year-olds who cannot be **Jason Bennetto**

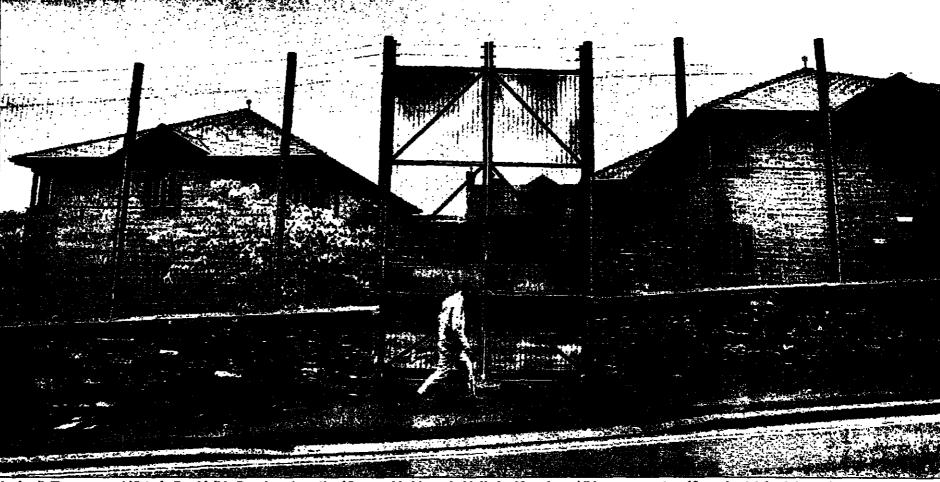
finds the residents of the isle of Man angry at outside inference

touched by the law. You are powerless to act. The Isle of Man takes a different view that we do have authority and responsibility over our children. Our society still prides itself on this.

"People do not take kindly to being told by England that what they are doing is wrong

and morally inferior."
The island has a reputation for tough action on crime and intolerance. Its inhabitants are fiercely proud of its independent identity - it is a Crown dependency and not part of the UK or European Union - and are prepared to fight for it.
The United Nations Human

Rights Convention forced the Isle of Man to change its laws on corporal punishment and homosexuality. In 1992, the island's parliament voted to decriminalise sexual acts between consenting men, but only after the British government threatened to intervene. A year



Hard cell: The annexe at Victoria Road jail in Douglas where the 12-year-old girl was held. Under Manx law, children as young as 10 can be detained there Photograph: Tom Pilston

later hanging was abolished, but at the same time the island's two-fifths, were prosecuted, this government voted to retain

birching. The police also have a reputation for taking a hard line on juvenile offenders. Without an independent Crown Prosecution Service it is left up to the police whether to bring charges. Last year, out of 625 crimes in-

included 89 children aged 10 to 13. A further 43 children were cautioned.

A Manx government report recently acknowledged that the use of imprisonment has resulted in the island's jail population being 12.5 per cent higher per head of the population girl that age will know the dif-

than in the UK. Overall levels ference between right and of crime are lower than in Britain.

A middle-aged Manx woman walking alongside the island's jail yesterday had little sympathy for the 12-year-old girl. "Just because they are nine, ten, or 12 they should still be made responsible for their actions. A

wrong.

"People in England automatically think we are barbaric because of the birching issue. but we look at how the authorities' hands are tied in dealing with youngsters and think we have got it right."

Not everyone supports this approach. Linda Coe, a shop

worker in Douglas, said: "I think its disgraceful. The prison is not fit for adults, let alone children.'

Others have contacted the

girl's lawyer, Terence McDonald, to express their anger and Mr McDonald said yesterday:

"Many people and the politi-

cians are concerned about the

properly. "We are not a poor country and it is to our shame that we are looking children up in prisons and forcing them to sleep

island's image and do not want

to frighten off the financial

sector or tourists. But this does

not matter, we need to ensure

that our children are treated

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news

Travel rules ease animal suffering

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

New rules aimed at curbing the suffering of farm animals ex-ported alive for slaughter were introduced by the Government yesterday.

But Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said Britain would be seeking a special opt-out for pedigree pigs, which already travel in relatively luxurious conditions.

The new rules, which come into force on 1 July, implement a 1995 European Union directive on the transport of live an-imals six months late. Half of the union's member states failed to meet the legal deadline for implementing the directive through their own laws.

But the European Commission has also broken a deadline for implementing the law, which

animal welfare groups had long campaigned for. It is more than a year late in producing detailed specifications for lorries which carry farm animals for more than eight hours. In the absence of these specifications, Britain will continue with its own 22year-old vehicle standards for

live animal transport. The UK's new regulations lay down maximum journey and rest times for animals and give ministers new powers to disqualify carriers who seriously or persistently break welfare regulations.

Young farm animals can travel for nine hours before a minimum rest period off the vehicle of one hour, followed by a further nine hours' travel. Adult cattle and sheep can travel for 14 hours before a minimum rest of one hour, followed by a further 14 hours' travel.

longer than eight hours will have to have training in looking af-ter farm animals and understanding their condition.

Carriers wanting to take cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses for journeys over eight hours and for all journeys overseas will need a government authorisation.

Live cattle exports from Britain have ceased following the BSE ban on UK beef exports. The trade in live sheep and lambs has also declined sharply. Last year some 760,000 were carried, only about half the number for 1995.

Britain also exports valuable pedigree pigs to the continent in a trade worth nearly £100m a year. The maximum journey time for pigs under the new reg-ulations is 24 hours, but Mr Cunningham wants an exception made for these animals.

All staff involved in journeys They travel with plenty of space ventilation, food, and water, and because they are certified as disease-free the exporters want them to stay confined until they reach their final destination.

Dr Cunningham added that the Government strongly preferred export of meat rather than live animals, for the sake of animal welfare and because provided more work for British abattoirs and meat

Julia Wrathall, a farm anima welfare expert with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the EU directive failed to give farm animals sufficient protection from suffering in long journeys in crowded lorries. She had doubts about enforcement, but welcomed the Government's intention of reviewing how the rules were working after one year.



Planners go to war against the Queen of Scots

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

West Lothian has a new question. Is the heart-tugging story of Mary Queen of Scots the best draw for the district's most significant historical pile, Linlithgow Palace, or should the emphasis be on its fine Renaissance architecture?

Mary Stuart's birthplace in central Scotland has stood a roofless, romantic ruin for 250 years. But a proposal to repair part of the building and create a "Mary Queen of Scots Experience" has got a rather sniffy response from council planners.

Mary's tragic story is "old hat, over-ro-mantic, negative and too concerned with royal rather than social history", accord-ing to a report submitted to West Lothian

David Jarman. head of strategic planning and transportation, admitted the Mary saga was "undoubtedly popular in appeal" but pressed an alternative approach that could "build on the palace's cultural links with Europe". Modern architectural scholarship had recognised its outstanding status as an early and significant expression of the Re-naissance in Scotland, he explained.

But while the palace may have influenced the design of other great houses in north-em Europe, few outside the council think that is its most important claim to fame or the one most likely to increase visitor numbers above the current 50,000 a year. Mary was born at Linlithgow in Decem-

ber 1542, six days before the death of her father, James V. Brought up in the French court, she married the Dauphin and was briefly Queen of France. Two husbands later, her turbulent life was brought to an end on the scaffold - executed on the orders of Elizabeth I whose throne she coveted.

Historic Scotland, custodians of the



Queen of hearts: West Lothian council says Linithgow Palace's architecture will attract more visitors than a 'Mary Queen of Scots Experience'

prise, and the council are at the consulta-tion stage of the £10m to £12m restoration plan. The Mary theme was put forward by a firm of consultants as a way of drawing more visitors once the roof and some of the interior of the North Range of the palace

Historic Scotland, a government quango, regards the palace as "under-performing" but yesterday to emphasised that no decisions have been taken on any theme. Historic Scotland, custodians of the palace, Lothian and Edinburgh Enter-

Tam Dalyell, the town's Labour MP finds the future of Linlithgow Palace easier to tackle than his own West Lothian Question dogging devolution.

"I believe in noble ruins," Mr Dalvell said. "There are many more things deserving of spending public money on. But it is Mary Queen of Scots, and the romance around her, that would draw the visitors." Linlithgow Academy history teacher Gordon Currie was in no doubt that Mary

was the lure. "You say to the average punter 'Renaissance and Europe' and you will get

Baby had no chance, says doctor

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

The doctor accused of letting a premature baby die in her mother's arms said it would have been futile, heroic and foolish" to try to keep the child alive.

Dr Faisal al-Zidgali, a paedi-atrician at Ayreshire Central Hospital said Rebecca Cassidy had been "extremely premature" and stood no chance of

Rebecca was born at the hospital in September last year with no prospect of survival.

following a pregnancy of up to 25 weeks, but Dr Zidgali deemed her to be "non-viable" Her mother, Kirsty, told the court vesterday that she plead-

she thought she looked healthy and normal. In her evidence she said the decision whether a prematurely born baby had a right to life should be made by the parents, not doctors.

But Dr Zidgali told the fatal accident inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court that Rebecca had been an extremely premature baby - 12 inches long, with a head smaller than a tennis ball. bruising across her head and abdomen and fused eyes.

Her heart rate was between 10 and 12 - compared with a normal rate for newborn babies of 120-160 and she felt cold because of poor circulation. She was gasping rather than breathing and the movements she Rebecca did not have any

chance of surviving because of her condition and I did not have any doubt in my mind," he told the inquiry. "We are not just dealing with a premature baby. We are dealing with a very ex-tremely premature baby.

"I think it is futile, heroic and foolish to try to do something for a baby that in my clinical judgement is not viable. You should not do anything to harm

Dr Zidgali said he had resuscitated premature babies before, even those born in the 23-25 week period (the legal limit for abortion is 24 weeks), but they had all had high heart rates and ed in vain for him to do some- was making were down to in- looked pink and relatively

voluntary muscle and nerve healthy. The longest any surspasms, the doctor added. vived was for two or three days. In his most recent case, the baby had died after just 10 hours.

Dr Zidgali also denied a number of times that there had been a complete communications breakdown between himself and the parents. After Rebecca's birth he had said to Mrs Cassidy: "I'm very sorry, she's in a very poor condition and there's nothing I can do."

"There was no criticism of my management. She thanked me and wished me the best of luck, and it's not common for us as juniors to be wished the best of luck. I felt really that I did something. That a mum who had been through all this appreciated me and wished me the best

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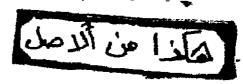
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Tory leadership: Howard and Lilley trail in last as first ballot of 164 MPs puts Hague in pole position to beat Clarke

Redwood glee as Right regroups

Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent green outside the Palace of Vestminster yesterday as the Redwood camp danced with delight at beating Michael Howard and Peter Lilley for third at the election. place, while their hero did his John Redwood appeared to fourth television interview.

Julian Brazier kissed Angela Browning. "I cannot stop smiling in a rather inane way," said another member of the camp.
"It suits you," said another

WARRANTY

Redwood supporter.
David Wilshire, the acting chief whip of the Redwood party, said their leader had been in touch with Mr Howard and Mr Lilley to offer them places in his campaign team.

Adding to the air of unreality, Michael Portillo's fan club was strolling around the green in sombreros. A four-piece guitar group strummed Mexican love songs to the man who missed out on the leadership contest because he lost his seat

be the only man at Westminster who was not surprised by the re-sult. "Why did nobody believe me?" he said, his arms wide

In the background, Michael Heseltine looked thunderstruck as he prepared for another interview. Lord Archer, a Lilley supporter, said: "All I said was there would be one big surprise. I wasn't expecting that one."

porters, confused and downcast by the results, scattered to the 17 June" corners of the Commons to discuss what they could do to rescue something from the wreck-

age of their campaigns.
One former minister said: "They can't assume our votes are going to transfer to Red-wood. I voted with my head for Howard. I'm going to vote with my heart in the second ballot. and vote for Clarke."

The result was announced by Archie Hamilton, chairman of the 1922 Committee, to Conservative backbench MPs in the committee room at 5.19 pm. "Kenneth Clarke 49; William Hague 41; Michael Howard 23; Peter Lilley 24; John Redwood 27. As no candidate has received the required number of votes,

The counting had been quick-er than the last time, when John Major won, because there were only 164 ballot papers to be counted. Mr Major voted by proxy after the death of his mother-in-law.

His audience was stunne They raced out bemused by what they had just heard ... suppose it means more parties said one former senior whip. One senior Tory MP said that he had been persuading all his

rophiles in the belief that the Left would win. "We will take to the hills and fight a guerrilla war," he said.

"It's a council of despair."

friends to vote Redwood

in order to "screw" the Eu-



Corridor of power: William Hague (centre) joins the crowd in the House of Commons yesterday awaiting the result of the ballot for the Tory leadership

Photograph: Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby

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Continuing bitterness that bodes ill for future

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The continuing bitterness of the Tory right does not bode well for the future of the Conservative Party. It suggests that William Hague will pull through to win the Conservative leadership. as the man who can offer some kind of spatchcock unity.

But the right-wing will not be happy, and will continue their sniping – at friend and foe alike. Some MPs even fear that a few right-wingers might yet back Mr Clarke in order to keep the feuding alive. To the bitter end, even as

polling was about the begin in Commons Committee Room 14 yesterday, John Redwood went on BBC Radio 4's Today programme to expose fellow rightwinger Michael Howard for exaggerating his support.

By lunchtime, Peter Lilley the other right-winger in the race, was appearing on The World at One to take a further kick at Mr Howard.

Pointing out that the former home secretary had only garnered 10 constituency votes, of the 653 available, Mr Lilley said he had himself made a much bigger impact than the "self-proclaimed big hitter."
In fact, of the 567 British con-

stituency parties that did cast an advisory vote, a clear majority went for Clarke, while a third backed Hague, and a measly tenth went for the three right-

wingers combined. It was left to Sir Michael Spicer, Mr Howard's Thatcherite campaign manager, to put those results in context. "The last leadership contest that I took part in," he said, "was one in which the overwhelming support of the party in the country was quite clearly for Willie Whitelaw and had that gone through and had its effect, we never would have heard of Margaret Thatch-Thatcher years."

If Sir Michael intends to resist demands for a significant constituency voice in future leadership elections, he is riding for a fall. The outstanding question that comes from the current MPs-only franchise is: what proportion of votes will go to the party members in a future electoral college?

Mr Hague himself said: "There are only two coherent systems of election. One is for MPs to decide, the other is for every member of the party to have a vote, although MPs could retain a larger share of the electoral college." The more immediate issue

for the Conservative 164 MPs is how they now switch their votes for next Tuesday's contest. Unless Mr Clarke withdraws in favour of Mr Hague, it would appear that there are just two

choices ahead. Redwood versus Hague would ensure a win for Mr Hague because of the threat of further strife, and possible de-fections, that Mr Redwood might provoke.

Clarke versus Hague would ensure a win for Mr Hague because too many MPs would fear the fall-out of splits and rifts that might follow a Clarke vic-

The alternative, which cannot be ruled out, is that Hague manages to secure the necessary 83 votes needed for a clear-cut second-round win next Tuesday.

Yesterday, he had 41 hardcore votes of his own. The Redwood votes will remain secure for the right, but the Lilley-Howard combined total of 47 could be more volatile. That would be enough to give Hague 88 if they switched en bloc,

which they will not. But in the privacy of a secret ballot, no one can be quite sure that some of Mr Clarke's first-round votes will not now begin to slip away - and over to the man now perceived as the ultimate victor.

Bottomley set to leave front bench

Colin Brown

Love her or loathe her, the cut-glass voice of Virginia Bottomley is likely to be missed from the BBC Radio Four's Today programme.
"Ginny". as she is known at

Westminster has told friends she is standing down from the Tory front bench, whoever is elected as the new leader of the party.

She told friends on the party circuit on the eve of the leadership poll that she was planning to spend more time with her family.

Mrs Bottomley, the pin-up for many Tory MPs in the Thatcher era, has been a regular voice on the BBC flagship show since John Major's 1992 general election victory, when he promoted her to the Cabinet with Gillian Shephard.

As Secretary of State for Health, she earned a reputation for ringing up officials at the



Bottomley: Plans to spend more time with her family

gramme. Mrs Bottomley, 49, was responsible for hard decisions, including the proposed closure of London hospitals, now halted pending a review by Labour.

At the Department of National Heritage, she defended the National Lottery, helped protect the BBC from changes which could have opened it to more crack of dawn to demand a right commercialism, and pre-sided of reply on the Today pro- over the Millenium Exhibition.



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Blair factor gets Islington house prices on the move

Jojo Moyes

The people of Islington, long the butt of right-wing humour, were laughing into the polenta vesterday with the news that the "Blair factor" had increased property prices by as much as 25 per cent.

Estate agents in north London were congratulating themselves that having a premier in their midst albeit one who had decided to sell his house - had helped boost property prices in the Islington neighbourhood to prices reminiscent of its exclusive

neighbour Hampstead. Mr Blair, now installed in Downing Street with wife Cherie and their three children, has decided to sell his five-bedroomed home in a quiet crescent because of the huge security problem and its effect on their

neighbours.
His spokesman said: "I can confirm that they are planning to sell the house. The family had hoped to stay in the house, but it became clear that this was an unrealistic proposition because of the cost to the taxpayer of securing it against terrorist attack, allied to the inconvenience caused to people living in the area. Therefore

this was the only sensible thing to do."

Local estate agents expect the
Prime Minister to make an even bigger profit than the reported £240,000 experts say he can expect over the

original purchase price.
The Blairs bought their threestorey home five years ago for £375,000, but it is now thought to be worth at least £615,000.

Local estate agent Daryl Lenhan of Bairstow Eves said the final figure may be much higher. "It is in a very popular location so it will fetch an inflated price anyway," he said. Surrounding properties are also expected to benefit from a higher valuation.

But those fancying a peek around the Blairs' former home are likely to be disappointed. Mr Lenhan said there were methods of deterring time-wasters.

vendor. They might ask you to vet end of the Islington range. A similar

Georgian house in the area is on the market for £549,000. Paul Williams, managing director of Holden Matthews, the agents who



You act on the instructions of your Des res: Tony Blair relaxes in the garden (top right) and with Cherie (above) at their £615,000 home (left)

المادا من الاصل

sold the property to the Blairs, said tage to the sale." However, Willi However, William Fergusson, partner in Hugh Grover Estates, said that having Britain's First Family in situ had helped fuel a dramatic rise in prices. "It was certainly good for the area. It was a talking point, but to be fair Islington has been increasing in

popularity for 3-5 years. The rise in the value of his house is entirely reflective upon the market and time that any individual sales go through." The Blairs, he said, were indicative of the kind of professionals and young families who were moving into the once run-down borough

in droves: media and advertising

people, professional legal sector, and those from the City. A neighbour, who did not wish to be identified, said: "I am not sorry to see the Blairs go because I think it will make

life for the rest of us a little easier."

Price is right for the PM

Nic Cicutti Personal Finance Editor

Hundreds of thousands of homeownerswill be asking two key questions over the sale of the Blair family home: "What do they know that we don't? And what will they be doing with the money?"

The couple's move, earning them at least £200,000 free of tax, follows a price surge which has seen the value of properties in some parts of London and the south-east of England rising by more than 50 per cent in

the past 15 months.

Jeremy Leaf, a housing market spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartened Surveyors, which represente estate agents, warms against applying the Islington experi-ence too closely to other parts of the country. Prices, he says, may not rise so swiftly in future - but there is no immediate risk of an 80s-style collapse either.

"A lot depends on any Gov-ernment measures taken to curb gazumping or to increase stamp duty. Issues like this, including interest rate rises or the abolition of mortgage interest relief, can affect confidence. One does wonder why Mr Blair is selling before the Budget."

Amanda Davidson, a partner in London financial advice firm Holden Meehan, says: "My advice would be to put the maximum into Premium Bonds. If they use their children's entitlements, they can invest up to £100,000. There is always the chance to strike it lucky and, as Leading article, page 19 we know, Mr Blair is lucky.

Housing policy: Places the politicians call home

Baroness Thatcher made a profit of £200,000 on her Barratt's home in Dutwich in 1992. She and Denis had bought it seven years earlier for £400,000, and they had hoped to move into it when she retired. But they decided they needed something classier and bought a five-bedroom house in Chester Square, Belgravia for nearly £750,000.

The imposing symbol of Michael Heseltine's success is the historic mansion Theford House in Northamptonshire. With 800 acres of land, the estate may be worth over eight figures. Mr Heseltine also owns a house in Belgravia worth around £1.5m, and

a thatched cottage on Exmoor which he bought for £250,000.

on what to do with the house.

Asked if he thought the property

would fetch an inflated price because

it belonged to the Prime Minister, Mr

Williams said: "I don't think so, but

it certainly wouldn't be a disadvan-

Jeffrey Archer's top-floor penthouse on the south bank of the Thames at Vauxhall has been valued at £4m.

New-Labourites Barbara and Ken Foliett have several homes. Rumour has suggested their house in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea is worth a couple of million, but Mrs Follett claims it was recently valued at £750,000. As well as "a small flat in the south of France", they own a cottage in Stevenage, where Mrs Follett was recently elected MP.

Leadership battle delays sleaze report

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, has become frustrated that the chaos within the Tory party is preventing the publication of his report on the cash-for-questions scandal.

Sir Gordon is anxious to draw the final line under the affair by publishing the report in order that it can be considered by MPs but the standards and privileges committee, to which it must be presented, cannot be recreated until the Tory leadership issue is resolved.

The report has been ready to be published since before the election, but its publication was delayed by John Major's decision to "prorogue" Parliament a couple of weeks before he needed to do so and this became an important election issue.

The Government had hoped to create the standard and privileges committee and the select committees which have an important role in scrutinising departmental decisions and legis-lation, but until the leadership of the Tory party is resolved with the appointment of a shadow ministerial team, the committees cannot be reconstituted.

Sir Gordon also faces another

no outside interests, an idea to defuse internal opposition which contradicts the recommendations of the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life. Sir Gordon said that he thought that the idea of having



chaos within Tory party

professional full-time politicians should be considered. However, the Nolan Committee report in 1995 said that Parliament benefits from having "members with continuing outside interests" and this view was reiterated Radio 4's Today programme yesterday by Professor Anthony King, a member

of the Nolan committee. ■ Labour is considering giving area of controversy following his the Conservatives chairman-

remarks in a legal magazine that ship of the Commons select he favoured full-time MPs with committee on defence in order committee on defence in order

over possible defence cuts. A furious behind-the-scenes row is taking place over the suggestion, which would mean that Bruce George, the long-standing member of the committee and Labour MP for Walsall South, would not, as expected, assume the chairmanship.

One Tory source said that as part of the deal over the chairmanship, Michael Mates, a former chairman of the committee, would return to the job.

A Labour MP suggested that Labour party chiefs may be willing to give the chairmanship to the Tories because "the planned defence review is going to result in big cuts and it would put a Labour chairman in a difficult position". Most former members of the defence committee who would be candidates for the chairmanship are prodefence spending and therefore giving the chairmanship to the Tories would avoid giving a senior Labour figure a platform to criticise cuts.

The review, to be completed by the end of the year, is likely to result in a fierce controversy over cuts. One MP said: "They would not be holding the review if they were not contemplating big cuts."



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Union fires warning shot over government spending

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The honeymoon period for the Government with the Labour movement came to an end yesterday when Britain's biggest union warned ministers that they would be committing "political suicide" if they stuck to

spending plans. The annual conference of Unison in Brighton warned the Blair administration that its intended adherence to the previous government's tight budgets would mean the nail in the coffin for public services as we

know them". Ministers were issued with the veiled threat of industrial acon spending. "A Labour gov-

operate with or he passive to attacks or cuts to jobs in the public sector," a motion warned. Delegates' overwhelming

support for critical resolutions was, however, coupled with strong backing for a statement from the executive which called for a constructive relationship with the Government. The union should work with ministers where that was possible and where it was not it would "argue clear rational alternatives", the statement said.

Nevertheless there was a demand for the re-nationalisation of the railways and utilities and the repeal of "all anti-union legislation" none of which the

ernment cannot expect the ceptable. The desperate namembership of Unison to colustrates the deep divisions between the activist-dominated conference and the relatively moderate leadership.

General secretary Rodncy Bickerstaffe emphasised that reducing unemployment was a priority, but warned that present policies and budgets were placing "intolerable strains on our members". He predicted that between 60,000 and 70,000 jobs would be lost in local government, 30,000 to 50,000 in the NHS, and many more elsewhere.

Delegates also supported a motion that there should be no compromise on the minimum wage, which the union wants set at half male median carnings -£4,42 an hour at current rates.

Chirac stands against Jospin over Emu pact

John Lichfield

The battle of wills over the European single currency plunged the divided French government into its first full-blown crisis yes-

President Chirac broke with political and constitutional precedent and publicly opposed the Jospin administration's decision to block the signing of a pact imposing budgetary discipline within the European single currency.

In the two previous co-habitations in the last 11 years be-tween French presidents and prime ministers of different parties, such public spats were avoided. The President's com-

VOLVO

EU partners.

made after an attempt at mediation by the Dutch Prime Minister, Wim Kok, seems un-likely to cool the atmosphere. It may make it even more difficult for the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, to back down when both he and Mr Chirac meet the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl on Friday.

On Monday, the new leftwing French government, startled its EU partners - and deeply angered the Germans - by asking for a postponement of

ments will be all the more controversial for intervening in a dispute between France and its cy. The Finance Minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said he was Mr Chirac's intervention, not rejecting the pact. But he could not sign it without further discussion on ways of giving a bigger role to governments in the wider political and economic management of Economic and Monetary Union (Emu).

Diplomatic efforts were under way yesterday to find a com-promise. The EU Commission President, Jacques Santer, will visit Paris tomorrow to offer Mr Jospin a stop-gap resolution, or statement at the Amsterdam summit next week. This would promise future negotiations on the signing, due next week, of a the broader, political management of Emu in return for an



immediate signing of the Stability Pact. The Minister for European affairs, Pierre Moscovici, said

yesterday that Paris wanted a

"real delay", and a proper ne-

pact. "Two paragraphs in a resolution will not do," he said. It is evident that the new government in Paris is desperate to

avoid allowing the dispute to damage or destroy plans to

gotiation before it signed the launch Emu by 1999. Bonn also seems anxious to avoid a confrontation. But domestic political pressures are threatening cause the most serious public row for 15 years between the two

The long-scheduled Franco-German summit in Poitiers on Friday may now turn into a sig-nificant battle of wills on the future direction of Emu - and the EU. Such Franco-German gatherings have a habit of producing unexpected agreements from thin air. But with President Chirac now aligned on the German side, the meeting could be

unpredictable and explosive. The present dispute seems to be partly an accident, caused by the naïvety of the new French administration and the extreme sensitivities in Bonn following the Kohl government's humil-iating defeat by the Bundesbank last week in its attempt to reval-

ue German gold reserves. Mr Jospin has apparently

what he regarded as a simple cosmetic and administrative delay. French socialists see their request for "an economic and political pole" in Emu policymaking as the minimum they need to fulfil their vague campaign promises to steer Emu towards growth and job-creation. Mr Strauss-Kahn, the finance minister, stressed he was not seeking to abandon, or even re-negotiate, the stability pact, even though it was once de-scribed by Mr Jospin as an 'absurd" concession to Bonn.

The German government suspects the French may take the pact hostage. They fear Paris will refuse to sign it until it wins concessions on EU job-creation programmes, such as the large transport schemes twice blocked

Santer tries to whip French into line

Hopes look slim for a deal on stability pact, writes Sarah Helm in Brussels

In a hurried attempt to secure However, economists question French acceptance of the controversial "stability pact" for the the single currency, Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, will hold emergency talks with French leaders tomorrow in Paris.

However, there appears to be only slim hope that a deal can be brokered in time for the Amsterdam summit next week, when the pact was to have been

The current terms of the stability pact have taken nearly two years to formulate and are unlikely to be rewritten in a few days. The pact was finalised in outline during tough bargaining between Germany and the previous French government at the Dublin summit in December.

The driving force of the pact, terms for which were originally tabled by Germany, is to ensure strict fiscal discipline between member states who join the euro zone.

The German intention has always been to ensure the permanent elimination of structural budget deficits. The method Bonn chose to apply under the pact was a system of sanctions to be imposed against backsliders. France has always baulked at the severity of the sanctions demanded by Germany and succeeded in diluting the terms in Dublin, when the deal was renamed a "stability

and growth" pact.
The present rules state that any country which allows its budget deficit to exceed 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) after joining the euro zone will be liable to a sliding scale of fines to be imposed by other member states, on advice from the Commission. The maximum fine which can be imposed amounts to half a per cent of that country's GDP. If the country does not correct its deficit, the money is distributed among the other euro members. Only in "exceptional cir-

cumstances" can the sanctions be set aside. Such exceptional circumstances can be a natural disaster or a serious recession. Mr Jospin now appears to favour transforming the pact into a "pact for jobs" as well as

how rules and sanctions could be so easily applied to countries which do not meet employment targets. Underlying French com-

plaints about the pact is a deeper concern about how policies for the euro zone should be formulated. Many observers believe Mr Jospin is holding the stability pact "hostage" to pursue his wider aim of securing a form of economic government, run by politicians rather than central bankers, for the euro. ■ In a frantic effort to qualify for monetary union, the German government was putting the final touches yesterday to a severe austerity package, Imre Karacs writes



Jospin: Wants politicians and not bankers to run the euro

Resistance by Helmut Kohl's junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats (FDP), appears to have thwarted attempts to raise taxes. Instead, the government is preparing to axe welfare projects and launch a hectic

wave of privatisations. This year's budget shortfall is to be made up in part from pri-vatisation revenues and from pruning state spending. Next year, when the deficit is set to be even higher, the govern-ment is considering the abolition of a range of tax concessions to companies:

The contours of the new programme emerged after weeks of haggling between Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats. "We are not at the end of the talks but we moving in the right di-rection," said Guido Westera pact for stability and growth. welle, FDP general secretary.

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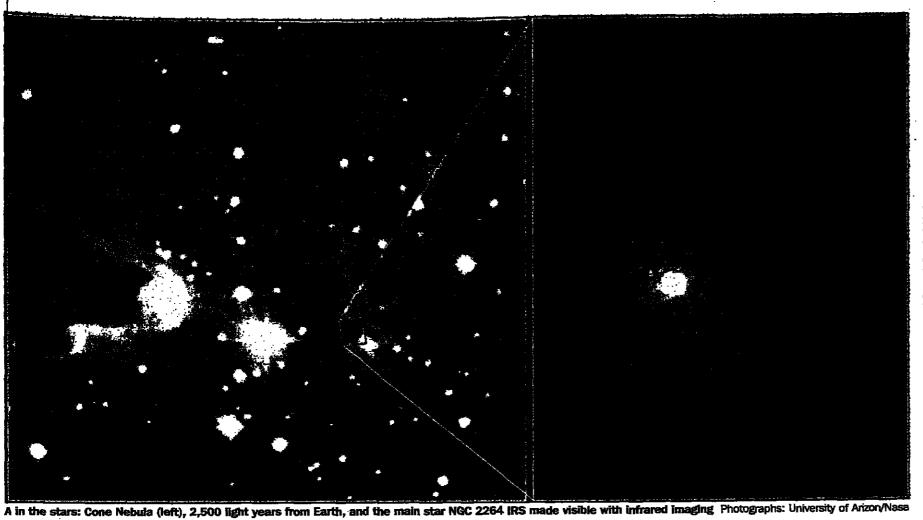
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Six new stars are born amid gas and dust

Charles Arthu Science Editor

The right-hand frame here contains not one star, but seven—though the dimmer six are all the offspring of the larger, central one. New pictures from the Hubble space telescope, using its infrared camera, have provided scientists with direct evidence that huge stars can throw off enough dust and gas to create "baby" stars, visible here as the six fainter dots in the picture.

dots in the picture.

The right-hand frame is an enlargement of a tiny area of the left, which lies in the Cone
Nebula, 2,500 light years away from Earth in the constellation

The main star itself is called NGC 2264 IRS, though it cannot be seen in the left-hand picture because of obscuring dust in its path. But with infrared imaging,

the central star is more apparent. Scientists call the starbirth visible here "triggered" star formation, and happens when a gale of high-speed particles from a young, massive star compresses nearby dust and gas until it becomes dense enough to trigger the formation of a star, or stars. Usually stars form by the gradual collection of dust and gas due to gravity, until the combined mass sparks fusion in its core. Normally individual stars would be many light years away: the nearest to Earth is almost five light years distant. However, these "offspring" stars are just 0.04 to 0.08 light years from the central mother. The pictures were analysed by astronomers at the University of Arizona and Nasa.

The rings around the star are not part of the image, but caused by diffraction effects from the point-like sources of light.

Vaccines tested on Australian orphans



Buinea pigs: Hundreds of orphans in the State of Victoria were used in medical trials Photograph: Reuters

Dert Milliken

A outcry erupted in Australia sterday over revelations that indreds of orphan babies and sail children were used as sinea pigs in experiments on ceines for herpes, whooping ough, influenza and other disess, for 25 years after the Second World War.

Former wards of state delanded a judicial inquiry after was disclosed that some of the sts did not work, failed to pass afety tests in animals and aused vomiting, abscesses and ther side-effects in babies. The revelations came in a re-

ort in the Age newspaper of Melbourne, which outlined sevn separate cases of such experiments taking place in rephanages in Victoria state beween 1945 and 1970. The experiments were conducted uder the auspices of the Walr and Eliza Hall Institute of fedical Research, one of Ausalia's most prestigious repearch institutions, and the commonwealth Serum Laboatories, then a federal govrmment body.

They took place without the onsent of any of the children's arents at a time when orphanges were crowded with state ards under an official policy hat children from poor families nd single parents should be laced under the care of the ate. Such policies continued until the 1970s.

Michael Wooldridge, the fedral minister for health, said last ight that the experiments hould never have happened. It said they were conducted acording to the medical ethics of the day and should not be adged by today's standards. We will do everything we can

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to put people's minds at rest." According to the Age, researchers from the Walter and Eliza Hall institute began work to develop a vaccine against herpes simplex by conducting ex-periments on babies in 1947 at Broadmeadows Babies Home, an institution run by the Roman Catholic Sisters of St Joseph. They chose the state wards because the infectious virus thrived in cramped living conditions and was believed to be "predominantly a disease of the poorer classes". The experiments failed. Some of the vaccinated babies caught herpes.

In another experiment, researchers from the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory tested combined antigens for whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus on wards aged between three months and almost three years, from three Melbourne babies' homes.

A separate experiment by the

same institution, involving 350 babies, was conducted over three years up to 1970. In this trial, to reduce the side-effects of influenza vaccines in infants, the babies were given full adult doses of the test vaccine.

David Vaux, the Walter and

Eliza Hall institute's spokesman, said yesterday that medical ethics committees with strict rules for informed consent on such trials had not been "invented" at the time.

"There were epidemics at the

"There were epidemics at the time of infectious diseases killing large numbers of children, especially at these institutions where conditions were very crowded. The sisters-incharge were desperate to try to prevent their children from dying." Why the experiments on a non-life threatening condition such as herpes? "The authorities were interested in preventing children from suffering from herpes," Dr Vaux said.

Former wards who believe they might have been used as guinea pigs are demanding access to their medical records. Heather Bell, a Melbourne woman used in one trial as a baby, and now a spokesperson for a group representing former wards of state, said yesterday: "We want a government inquiry. The government were totally responsible for these children and they used them as guinea pigs. Would you use your children for medical experiments?"

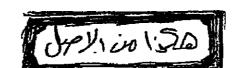


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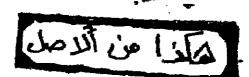
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Hong Kong

US to boycott Swearing-in of China's chosen

Maine Albright, the United Stat Secretary of State, will boyt the ceremonies for in-stall Hong Kong's first postcolcul government in protest agat China's decision to use the casion to install an uncled legislature which will repla the territory's existing eled body.

Governor Chris Patten. saiesterday that he guessed 'sc other political leaders whelieve in democracy and decratic institutions will have theme sort of concerns". Hipmments strongly suggest tharitain too will turn its back onle swearing-in ceremony wh will shortly follow the 30 Julhandover ceremony to be at ded by world leaders and atast 40 high-level governm representatives,

is decision adds to the fing feeling that the final day fitish rule and the first day hinese rule will not be wbut considerable contro-Last week, The Indepenreported that China was v to boycott Britain's avell parade.

endorsing or helping to me legitimate the creation of wisional legislature set up hina to replace Hong Mr.'s first fully elected Legwe Council.

40 or so VIPs invited to ob-



in ceremony for the new government's top officials. However, last month it became known that China also wanted to in-

clude a ceremony for members

of the Provisional Legislature. This provoked a flurry of diplomatic protests but China and the incoming Hong Kong government have made it clear that once a decision had been taken to include the legislature's members in the proceedings, it could not changed. This point was emphasised yesterday by Henry Tang, a member of the new government's cabinet.

A spokesman for Rita Fan, the president of the Provisional Legislature, said she was not he United States has made concerned whether or not Mrs that it does not wish to be Albright would be present, as the body was set up to serve the people of Hong Kong and so it did not matter whether foreigners approved of it or not. United States China policy

has become increasingly fotrad been thought that the cused on the Hong Kong transition. A recent report by the sty the handover ceremonies Hong Kong-based Political and d then attend the swearing- Economic Risk Consultancy

The last emperor's widow is dead

nev herself an empress, has Poc The woman who shared thenal years of the last impet ruier of the Mil dopassed away on Monday. hefficial Xinhua news agency anunced yesterday.

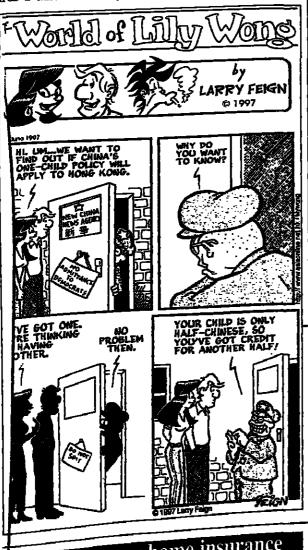
was a commoner, not deseded from the "eight major sumes", the families who in imrial China could marry into th imperor's family.

did not meet Pu Yi until af he was finally released by thCommunists in 1959. In 19 he was assigned a job in a mhine repair shop in a Peking benical garden. Li was workiras a nurse in a hospital

Pelg - Li Shuxian, second where he came for treatment wiff China's last emperor but and they married in 1962, when she was 38 and he was 55. Pu

Yi died of cancer in 1967, aged 60. The couple had no children. "On I May, I and my bride tle home, and this ordinary home was, to me, something extraordinary," Pu Yi wrote in his autobiography From Emperor to Citizen. It is quite likely these final years were the happiest of his life. Pu Yi married his first wife, Empress Wan Rong when they were both 17 but Wan became an opium addict and died in 1946. Li's death breaks another link with the last members of the Manchu Qing dynasty, which was overthrown in 1911

Obituary, page 22





notes that "Washington has ig-nored China's description of the transition as an internal affair and is turning China's treatment of Hong Kong into a litmus test for US-China relations".

Hong Kong's Democratic Party filed a court injunction yesterday to challenge the constitutional legality of Peking's hand-picked shadow legislature set to replace a democratically elected assembly upon the 30 June handover of the British colony. Legal experts said the move had little chance of success but may temporarily block the Peking-selected chamber now forced to meet in China.



New identity: A man reading a form for the new Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passports yesterday, the first day that application papers were distributed in the colony. It is claimed the passports self-destruct if tampered with



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FIAT FLEXIBLE EASIPLAN EXAMPLE PUNTO 60S 3DR

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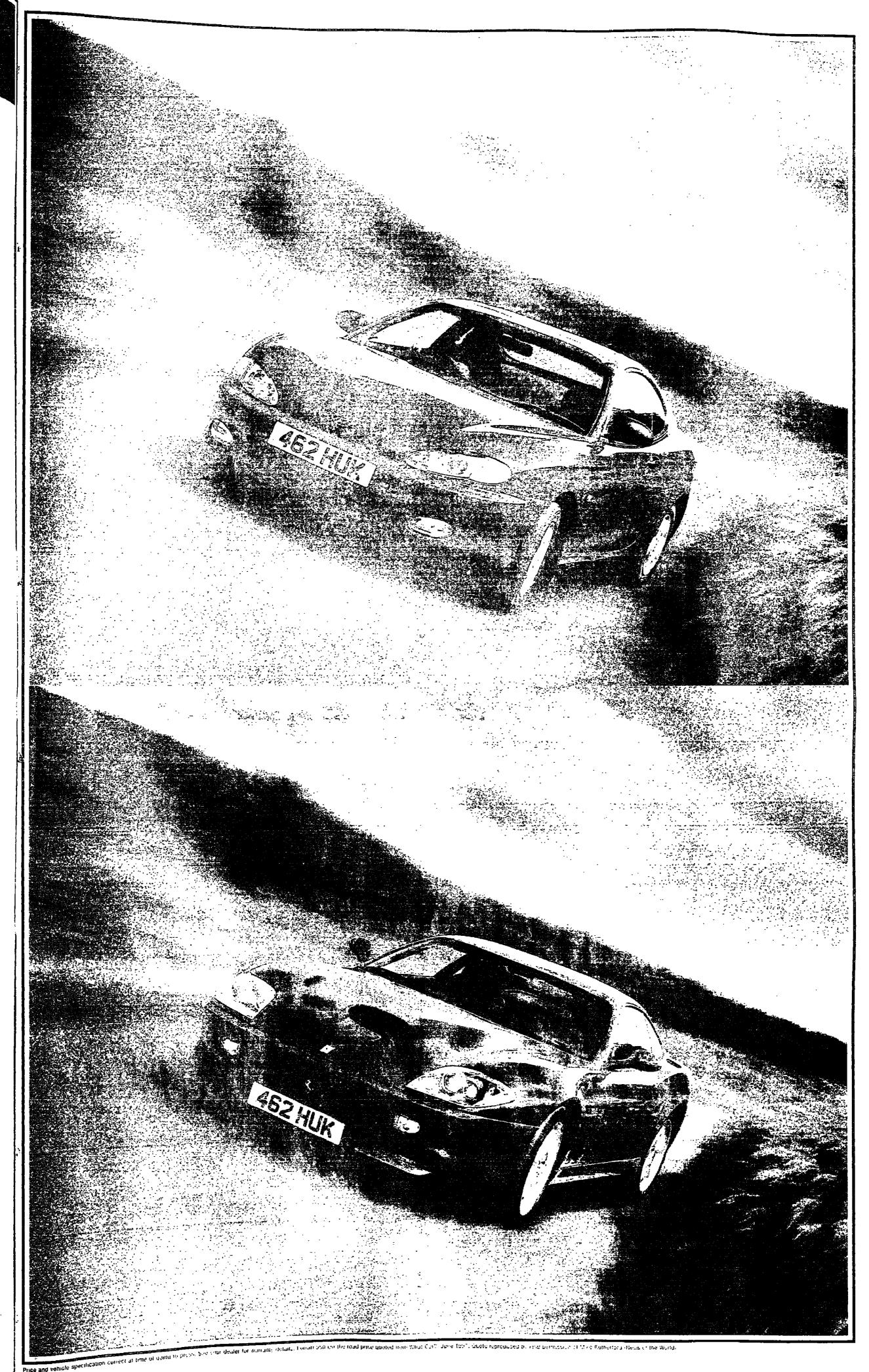
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Russia: Tale of two countries

Questions hang over an economy's success or failure. **Phil Reeves** reports from

Moscow

He has one of the more soughtafter telephone numbers on the planet, and yet it can be hought. If you have investment dollars - say, \$100m - you too can call President Boris Yeltsin's protege, Boris Nemtsov. The charming but persuasive min-ister would be delighted to help you hack a path through Rus-

sia's jungle of red tape.

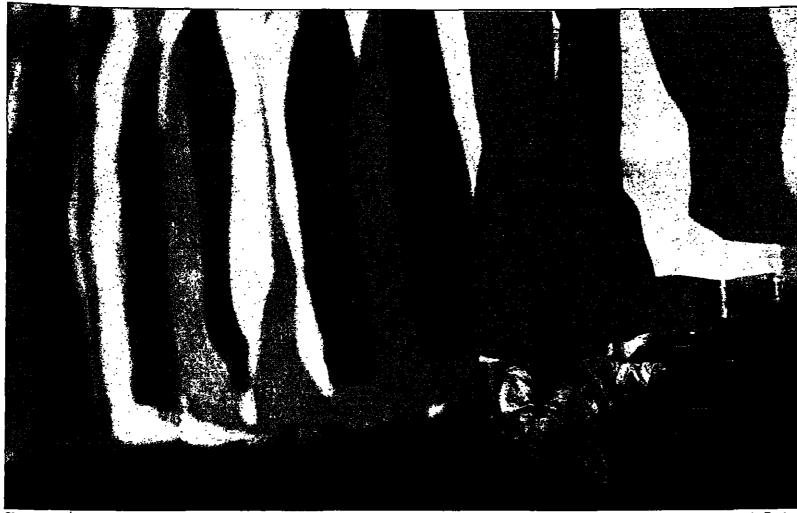
That, at any rate, was his mesage to leading business executives during a trip to Japan this week. The offer was open to those willing to invest in Rus-sia. said First Deputy Prime Minister Nemtsov. "If you can't reach me at my offices, ring me on my mobile phone," he told them. "If you can't reach me on the mobile, phone me at home."

It was a stunt, but one with a serious element: Russia is still struggling to shake off a post-Soviet depression that has cut its gross national product (GNP) in half, crippled much of its industry, and left millions beneath the poverty line. It desperately needs investors, but it is finding them hard to get.

Yet if the Japanese - and any other foreign investors - are to take up Mr Nemtsov's invitation. a fundamental question must be resolved: are the signs that Russia's economy on the mend to be trusted or is the country sliding further into decline?

In the last few weeks, the issue has become the focus of debate, not least because of conflicting government statistics. In January - when President Yeltsin seemed at death's door and the country desperately nueded a lift - the State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat) announced that GNP was up by

0.1 per cent on January last year. The following month the government statisticians detected a similar improvement, reporting an upturn of 0.9 per cent. Both results were achieved by massaging the numbers namely by factoring in a higher figure for the black economy this year than last. But Mr try with unexpected energy. Yeltsin felt confident enough to predict 2 per cent growth this year, the first turn-around since the transition to a free market



City boom: A worker adjusts his mask while painting a bridge in Moscow, which is enjoying most of the country's economic growth Photograph: Reuters

Winners and losers in the new capitalist era

economists changed their minds. There would be no improvement this year after all, they declared; in fact, GNP The list of those in the winners' enclosure in post-Soviet Russia is short, writes Phil could slide slightly further into Reeves. At the top of the list is the city of the mire. Again, the sulphurous whiff of politics was in the air: Moscow. While much of the rest of the counthe Kremlin is sparring with a truculent parliament over the Yeltsin administration's plans for budget cuts and a new tax code. Predicting further gloom may help pressure deputies to

first quarter of this year.

support their line.
What, though, is the truth?
Opinion is divided as never before. The optimists - notably Western analysts - point out that the landscape is more promising than it has been since the implosion of the Soviet empire. Boris Yeltsin has recovered from his illness, and he has thrown bimself into running the coun-

This month the government's

The rouble is stable, and strengthening. Inflation is down. running at under 3 per cent a month for more than a year. The cost of government bor-

try is in the doldrums, the capital is thriving, buoyed up by a huge black economy. It is fast becoming an island state, three times richer than the rest of the country. The Muscovites are not entirely alone: at their side stand the "new Russian" beneficiaries of the privatisation process that has produced huge wealth for a small and fre-

quently corrupt minority. There are also win-

rowing has dropped hugely team of free market economists. from phenomenally high levels of last year. Foreign direct in-His communist and nationalist opponents are not particularly vestment, though low, is pick-ing up and foreign portfolio effectual. "The conditions are beginning to emerge for an upinvestment is showing an abrupt rise. Capital flight – which last turn," said Al Breach, an economist at the Russian European Centre for Economic Policy. year saw \$2bn a month leave the But predictions of an end to country - is ebbing. Real in-

comes rose by 4 per cent in the the Russian slump have come and gone before. In October Mr Yeltsin has surrounded 1995, the European develophimself with a sharp young ment organisation OECD fore-

saw growth in Russia for 1996. What happened? The economy contracted by another 6 per cent, propelled off course by Mr Yeltsin's wild election spending spree. While parts of Russia are seeing their fortunes improve, the brunt of this trend is confined to the city of Moscow, and oil-rich areas. Other parts of the country remain hopelessly

ners among the growing service industries

(notably telecommunications), and indus-

trial sectors - for example, petrochemicals,

The losers' enclosure is larger and stretch-

es from Murmansk in the west to Vladivos-

tok in the far east: thousands of factories

have long stood idle, with nothing to fill their

place. The largely unreformed agricultural sec-

tor is in disarray. So, too, are government ser-

vices, the military, coal mining and most heavy

industry. And many millions of Russians are

still waiting for their pay and pensions.

and exporters of non-ferrous metals.

Wages and pension arrears

have been steadily rising and now stand at about \$12bn, a crisis deepened by the failure of the government to collect taxes. In the first quarter, it raised just over half of the targeted revenues. Into the mix should be stirred endemic corruption, a lack of laws governing business transactions, tensions between central and regional government, an arcane tax system, and limitless quantities of red tape.

No matter how much money flows into Moscow, the rest of Russia's 147 million population face more hard times. The government is to reform the domestic housing and energy subsidies by targeting benefits for the genuinely poor – a move that may bring long term ben-efits, but will have the immediate effect of deepening the economic gloom. "Even if the conditions were to improve markedly, you still won't see a lot of investment here. It'll take 20 years to sort out this place." said one Western analyst. "And that's if things go well."

significant shorts

Crucial vote leaves Czech PM hanging on Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, battling to save the market

reforms he has built since the end of Communism, just survived a vote of confidence in his government. Deputies voted 101-99 for Mr Klaus. The vote came six hours after Mr Klaus went before the Czech parliament saying he needed its vote to carry through an austerity program. Mr Klaus controls 100 seats in the 200-seat parliament and had to win over independent deputy Jozef Wagner to win. Mr Wagner told parliament he would support Mr Klaus only if the premier promised to put the future privatization of banks and large state-owned

companies before parliament. Arafat arrests suspect killers

Yasser Arafat has ordered the arrest of a Palestinian intelligence officer sought by Israel in the deaths of two Arab land dealers, a security official said. Three Arab land dealers have been killed in the past month, apparently on suspicion they sold land to Jews. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he had proof the Palestinian Authority was involved in the abductions of the victims and he suspected it was behind the killings.

Prince aids Bulgaria's recovery

Prince Kiril, son of Bulgaria's exiled King Simeon II, arrived in Sofia to advise President Petar Stoyanov on stabilising the economy. Simeon's second son, Kiril Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, an economist at London-based investment bank Lehman Brothers International, was met at the airport by a small group of royalists with flowers and the traditional welcome girts of bread and salt. Reuter - Sofia

Coup leaders menace media

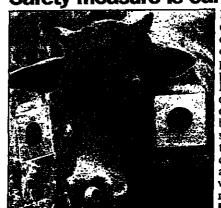
The military junta in Sierra Leone hinted at a crackdown on the press as it sought to counter reports it had turned to Libya for military support. Declarations read on state-run radio also threatened merchants with "stringent measures" if they did not control prices of food which have soared since the 25 May military coup.

Divers pull ship from the deep

Divers began salvaging a centuries-old Swedish sailing ship yesterday that had been discovered off the former East German coast under the Communist regime but never recovered. Salvage work began after barnacles eating away at the 650-year-old wooden ship threatened to destroy the vessel. The ship is believed to have carried limestone slabs to build churches. It is the second oldest ship discovered on the German Baltic coast.

AP - Hiddensee the German Baltic coast.

Safety measure is ear to stay



earrings now dangle from cows' ears in a oilot road-safety project on the Malaysian island of Langkawi. The ear-rings are being tested to see if they reduce traffic accidents caused by cows and buffalo wandering on the roads at night

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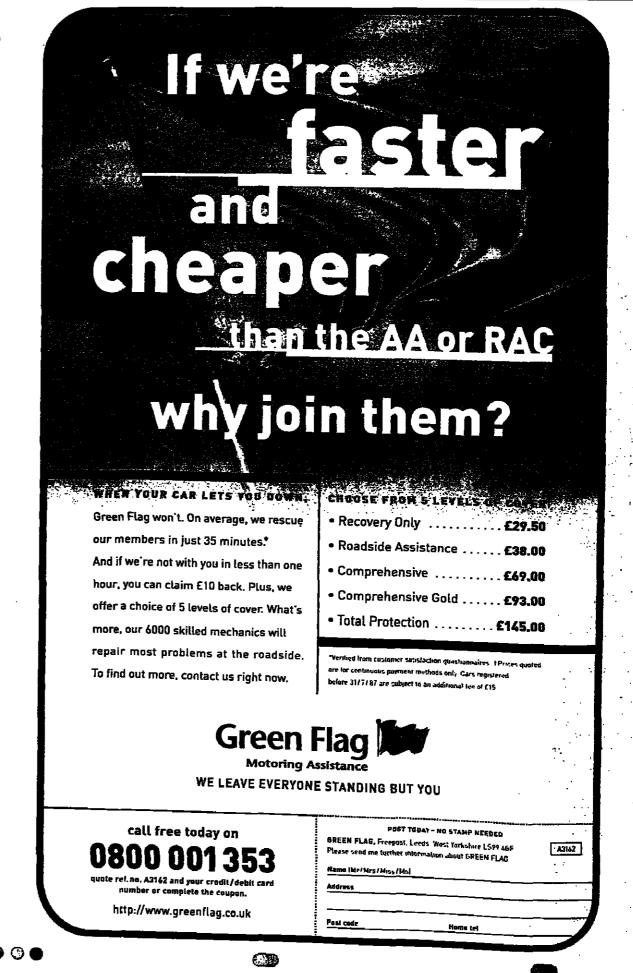
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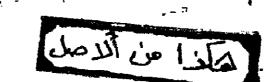
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Why the Tories won't let the best man win

essons one, two and three from yesterday's first-round ballot for the leadership of the Conservative Party are as follows. One, this is no way to elect a party leader; two, this is no way to choose a potential Prime Minister; three, that tells you most of what you need to know about the Tories' parlous condition.

If the Conservatives want to be regarded as a party fit to be elected in the next millennium, then their own internal elections should be a model of democratic propriety. It was perfectly possible to conduct a proper election this time round. All it needed was for John Major to do the decent thing, and hang on for a couple of months longer.
The fact that the Opposition would be led for a time by a weakened leader (because he had just been heavily defeated) is neither here nor there: Tony Blair was so obviously going to dominate the scene for a time that it didn't matter much what happened to the Tories.

Mr Major would have enabled his party to think a bit longer and harder about its future, and about who might best lead it.

More important, though, the extra time could have allowed the party to devise new rules which could then be used to elect a new leader in the early autumn. Those rules should have been drawn up to ensure that committed party activists had a vote, along with

other representative arms of the party. Is it not bizarre, really, that a party which spouted so much democratic rhetoric while forcing unions to ballot, and that lambasts Labour for allowing trade unions to play a role in its elec-tions, still cannot bring itself to allow its own members to play a meaningful part in electing its own leader?

All of this is more than passingly significant, since the party would not have got itself into its present mess if it had had the wit to wait. And it is an unholy mess, that's for sure.

Work it through for a moment. Michael Howard, merely by virtue of coming last, is out of the running, even though there is only a palmful of votes between him, Peter Lilley, and John Redwood. Mr Lilley has a problem mustering the right-wing support split between him and his two fellows on that wing of the party, partly because he came fourth, and partly because no one seriously believes that British voters would elect him Prime Minister. Mr Lilley, in fact, has a consistency to his positions, is forthright, cogent, and served well as a cabinet minister, particularly in the difficult job of secretary of state for social security. But he utterly lacks presence, or charisma. There is no winning charm, no ruthless aggression. In fact he does not obviously display any of the personal characteristics that politicians need in some measure. He would appear to voters as a total unknown; worse, he is not



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someone they feel much inclined to get in the limited confines of the parlia-

That leaves John Redwood. His rightwing position is the most intellectually consistent - indeed, it has been the most consistent of all three right-wing candidates, full stop. But he is completely unelectable as a Prime Minister. He is regarded as not being entirely con-nected with reality, and that eventually proves fatal in a politician.

Tory MPs are not wholly daft. They understand all that. And they will look at the arithmetic of yesterday's voting, and realise that none of the rightmentary party. Add the fact that the party outside the Commons firmly rejected all of the right-wingers in the party's consultation exercise, and the conclusion is obvious: it has to be either Kenneth Clarke, or William

If the party were able to behave ratio-nally, there would be no further argument. The constituencies want Ken Clarke. The public wants Ken Clarke. They know he has experience, and that he has the best chance of scoring points across the despatch box and the televi-

NO SIR
IT REALLY IS JUST A
PISTOL IN MY POCKET!

also know that the Tory right's obsession with Europe is not mirrored by the public, who think that the party had better get on with the future rather than continue agonising about its past bitternesses.

Probably, however, the party is unable to behave rationally - therefore it will elect William Hague. The reason will principally be a negative one: that the anti-European Tory majority cannot bear the thought of being led by Ken Clarke, the man most clearly identified with the policy (of keeping an open mind on our future in Europe) that they have most despised over recent years. In fact, they will do whatever is necessary to prevent his becoming leader. Mr Hague will therefore almost certainly come through

to win, but by default.
This would be, for the Tories, a lamentable outcome, but in many ways a fitting one. At every turn the above account underlines how confused and defeated the party's condition really is. The best that Conservatives can hope for, if they do indeed elect Mr Hague, is that this untried, inexperienced, notentirely-sure-of-himself man works out a way of remaking his party, and that he can learn leadership skills quickly, and on the run. He has the advantage of time: no one is rushing to hold another general election for a while yet. And his youth itself provides some opportunities, in terms of developing wingers carries sufficient weight, even sion studios against Tony Blair. They appeal. But the party's MPs would be

much wiser to stop looking back, and think about what they really need now: a strong, confident, well-tested leader who can mount an effective opposition and rebuild the Tories' confidence in themselves. They should elect Ken Clarke before it's too late. But they probably won't.

Blair scoops the lottery

Here is a question for people who believe in fairness and social justice. Is it right that someone who buys a house can make a quarter of a million pounds profit in a few years, while someone else who lives a block or two away is unable to accumulate any capital at all? That question is not a dig at the Blairs; they are simply making the kind of casually huge gain that many others do. But the sale highlights a curiosity of British society: big differences in wealth (and thus in comfort and security) often have more to do with fortuitous house purchase, where you moved and when, than any other factor. Yet politicians rarely contemplate making our housing market more rational, because then the lottery might end. Mr Blair might reflect on the matter as he tucks away his sayings for that inevitable (but probably distant) rainy day.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Get Europe's foreign policy act together Sir: Whatever the disappointments of the Common Foreign and

Security Policy in recent years, viewed in a proper historical perspective, substantial progress is being made. Twenty years ago, Europe's inability to act together in foreign policy was not regarded as surprising or culpable. Ten years ago we felt guilty about our failure. Five years ago aspirations and rheloric had been developed, but there were no ground rules and no institutions. After Maastricht, we had some mechanisms, but were not good at using them. Most worrying is the impact on the European electorate of our failures in the wars of Yugoslav succession. We raised expectations about our ability to save life and then dashed them.

At the Amsterdam summ meeting we need to learn the essons of past failure. We need a single person to be the face of our foreign policy, working in a stronger "troika". We need better planning. Above all, we need the ability to intervene militarily as a last resort. The policy needs a parliamentary dimension, both national and European.

Such a policy needs to be rooted in public awareness of the need for a common policy capable of responding to global threats. Foremost among these in the coming decades are the impacts of environmental and public health issues on our foreign policy. Civilisation can drown in the population shifts consequent on environmental disruption. It is anticipated that within 20 years we will see 120 million refugees from the consequences of climate change alone. These are the wretched of the earth" driven north by economic failure, population growth and political collapse. This is a tide of misery that could create terrorist states and semi-states equipped with cheap rocketry and stolen nuclear

technology.

The need for a true common foreign and security policy is real and urgent and can be communicated to the people of Europe because the need for it grows from the genuine fears and perceptions of our citizens. It is not a just game for diplomats. It is about trade and jobs, and drought and hurricanes. TOM SPENCER MEP (Surrey. C)

Chairman, Foreign Affairs, Security & Defence Policy Committee of the European Parliament Churt, Surrey

The heavy price of fossil fuels

Sir: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has advocated an urgent 60 to 80 per cent cut in emissions of greenhouse gases in order to stabilise the Earth's climate. Richard D North ("Campaigners who blend reason with grandstanding", 5 June) failed to mention this, thus removing the context for Greenpeace's

Using the computer models on which scientists base their predictions of climate change, Greenpeace estimates that no more than 225 billion tonnes of carbon can be burned if global warming is to be limited to an increase of one degree centigrade. (The United Nations Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gasses concluded that temperature

increases beyond 1C may lead to extensive ecological damage).

The total amount of fossil fuels currently due to be extracted is 1,000 billion tonnes, which if

this is only a fraction of the fossil fuels thought to exist in the Earth, a staggering 4,000 billion tonnes.

Regardless of whether the Atlantic frontier would play only a marginal role in the world demand for oil, the UK should behave responsibly and refrain from exploiting this region for fossil fuels. So far, BP and Shell have paid lip service, but nothing else, to the "dilemma" of exploiting fossil fuel reserves. DAVID CROMWELL (former Shell exploration geophysicist)

burned would result in an

unacceptable temperature rise. But

Southampton Green Party Sir: It is no surprise that the response of world governments to the Earth Summit five years ago

has been that of failure. The seeds of failure were already sown in the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development which maintained that global economic growth was essential to achieve sustainable development. Economic growth, wherever it takes place, is the main cause of global ecological and

social crises. Following the globalisation of world trade as a result of the last General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the establishment of the World Trade Organisation, large quantities of consumer durables are flooding into Britain and other Western countries. This consumption has involved highly polluting methods of production, mainly in China and other "tiger

economies" mainly in South-east Asia. This pollution should be attributed to the British consumer. not to the producers.

Unless we in the Western world are prepared to adopt a much simpler lifestyle then "Earth Summit" conferences will be little more than hot air. MICHAEL THOMAS UK Co-ordinator The Future In Our Hands Swindon, Wiltshire

New air assault on our ears Sir: Polly Toyabee ("What defence

toys really cost us", 9 June)

questions the Government's unexpected support for the purchase of 232 Eurofighters. The noise of low-flying training causes distress over a wide area of northern England, Wales and Scotland and has now been proved to be capable of irreversibly damaging the hearing of children. So where will the Eurofighter be based? At what levels, over whom, will it be doing its daily work-out? Given the superior power of this plane's engine, has anyone asked what sort of noise it

the Tornado, for instance? Why has such a huge strategic decision been taken before the much-vaunted Strategic Defence Review has even started? Submissions from the public to the review need to arrive at the MoD by the end of June. It is time the many individuals and local groups

will produce? Will it be louder than

concerned with the noise and effect | looks like we will have the political of low-flying left a bit of afterburn CLARETAYLOR

Sir: There was fighter combat in the Gulf war, but it was over very quickly, with few allied casualties. In Bosnia the Serb fighters stayed on the ground. Why? Because the American fighters and pilots were vastly superior to the Iraqis and Serbs. Britain's fighters hardly got involved, because their current aircraft, the Tornado F3, badly

needs replacement.

We owe it to our pilots to send them into combat with the best equipment, so they have less chance of being killed. CONOR O'NEILL London SW14

Short's will to beat poverty

Sir. "Elimination not alleviation" of poverty a fantasy? ("The new Joan of Arc?", 7 June.) Certainly not. As long ago as 1977 the US National Academy of Sciences concluded after a major study that "if there is the political will in this country and abroad ... it should be possible to overcome the worst aspects of widespread hunger and malnutrition within one generation". Unicef now says much the same, but with a timeline of just a decade.

As long as Clare Short stays in charge at the Department for International Development, it

will in at least one of the G7 countries. Only six more to go. London N13

APPOINTMENT of HEAD

201ML CHIELS OF SLYLE

which produced no emissions were

"Greener" vehicles do nothing

developed tomorrow, millions would still suffer traffic problems.

to reduce congestion (which costs industry £19bn a year) or to end "rat-running". Pressure for new roads would continue, eating up

more countryside and further dividing towns. The noise of roads would continue to blight homes

and enormous amounts of raw

materials would continue to be

Planning to reduce the need to travel and making alternatives

attractive and convenient would

address all these problems. Now

that Cynog Dafis MP has adopted

the Road Traffic Reduction Bill we

Parliament which will give Labour

a chance to show if they will reduce

all traffic problems by being tough

on the cause of the problem - too

Bomber stamp

can look forward to debate in

used in car-building.

Dr SARAH HILL

London E9

NICK HUNT

Lonsdale College

Lancaster University

Prescott trips over the dog

Sir: My family would love to do our bit for the environment and go by bus ("I'll get you on the bus, says Prescott", 6 June). Unfortunately, our willingness and money are not sufficient for Stagecoach Red & White in west Gloucestershire. A reasonable service exists and the buses are often nearly empty when we wish to travel, but the company has said "No".

The problem is our black labrador. He is a dog, and although he is extremely well-behaved the company refuses to give him a ride. We can't leave him at home all day on his own. Rail passengers have a charter; bus passengers need one that sets out minimum standards including carriage of dogs and other things that bus companies may regard as awkward, such as pushchairs, suitcases and folding bicycles. CLIVE MOWFORTH

Sir: The evidence would certainly indicate that curbing car pollution is indeed a vital problem, and Professor Peter Smith (Letters, 4 June) suggests a number of technical fixes to engines and cars which would help to clean up the

Sir: Will the Post Office be following up the obnoxious and insensitive depiction of RAF Dursley, Gloucestershire bombers on the new Royal Mail stamps by a series of images

showing burning buildings and dead babies? Alternatively, if this is too offensive, perhaps images of Luftwaffe aircraft over London might be a better reminder of what exactly is being commemorated here. In the meantime, could the air. But even if a "magic" fuel Post Office explain how we can write to our friends in Dresden? EAMONN MOLLOY

Blocked footpaths of old England

Sir: For so long I have read and heard about the rights of every Englishman to walk the public footpaths of the country. I have even been told that there is a watchdog committee which zealously watches over these rights. If this is true, then they need to wake up and pay attention!

Last month I arrived off the plane at Heathrow from LA, picked up my car and headed towards East Anglia. In Suffolk, in the hamlet of Nedging, I stopped by the church, by a public footpath sign, started down it, only to be stopped after 50 yards by a very specific sign which indicated that I was about to trespass on private property. So I retreated, only to be told later in the nearby village that I should have heeded the first sign and ignored the second.

The arrogance required to flout enturies-old laws such as in beyond my comprehension. I hope that those who are supposedly overseeing these tootpaths take the appropriate action on behalf of all those who enjoy the country. Or, if they are still asleep, I hope those citizens of East Anglia who care enough will rise and rectify this act of blatant arrogance. ROBERT GRABOW Carmel, California,

Long history of honours for sale

Sir: Your leading article "Banish all the dishonourable honours" (5 June) was unfair in accusing David Lloyd George of introducing corrupt political honours. Honours were sold by monarchs and governments from the 17th century. Lloyd George was no worse than his critics, and he was not personally corrupt. Money raised from the sales was placed in the Coalition Liberal and Lloyd George Political Fund - and spent upon political activities. PAUL SMITHERMAN Soruhsea, Hampshire

Charity ruling

Sir: I must correct your education correspondent's report (6 June) about the Charity Commission investigation of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations. It was not "hastily added to the agenda of a top-level Home Office meeting". The conduct of the commission's investigation is entirely a matter for the commission. It was not mentioned at our long pre-arranged meeting with the Home

RJFRIES Chief Charity Commissioner London SW1

Global eruv

Sir: I see the question of the north London enn has come up again (Faith & Reason, 31 May, Letters 7 June). Enlarge your thinking and it will be solved. Think about making the enclosed part bigger, with a bigger boundary. Make it as big as the equator and it takes in half the world. Take in even more space, and the boundary has to get smaller. Take in almost the whole surface of the globe, and you can fit your wire ring into someone's back garden.

Then everybody everywhere can enjoy the benefits of being inside it. J M H WRIGHT Sale, Cheshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

The soffice of fixes

More equality just what the doctor ordered

Health is not essa Jowell learnt a new phrase last week: only a matter the "food desert". Food deserts, the for the NHS – health was told at a private seminar in London, are those areas it reflects of inner cities where cheap, nutritious food is virtually housing, unobtainable. Car-less residents, unable to reach out-oftown supermarkets, depend on the corner shop where prices are high, products are processed and fresh fruit and unemployment, poverty. egetables poor or non-existent. Labour is

It was part of the new minister's preparation for a major speech next month in which she will set out the Government's plans on public health. Among hem is an idea that would, if backed with sufficient political clout, go beyond anything the Government has so far pledged. It could even change the way we think about health

revisiting the

1980, which

inequalities

Laurance

Black report of

aimed to reduce

which condemn

It is not that the Government's early initiatives have lacked impact. The ban on the poor to bad tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship was dramatic and courageous. The promised cuts in NHS paperwork to deliver £100m of savings may be less than a day's revenue for the NHS but an extra £10m here and there, such as that allocated to breast cancer services, can cut waiting times and

reduce anxiety. Moves to abolish the NHS internal market may happen more slowly than some hoped, but it is almost certainly wise to allow time for alternative arrangements to be

But this is small beer compared to Labour's big idea. Frank Dobson and his team may not succeed in changing much in the NHS - and may end up not wanting to when the results of studies they have launched come in - which means that they need to look to the arena of public health for a fresh approach. They have chosen to re-visit the 1980 Black report on inequalities in health and set about reducing the health divide between the poor and the rich.

Such an enterprise, if it led to action, could do more than improve the lot of the poor. Commissioned by the last Labour government, Sir Dou-glas Black, the eminent physician who later became president of the Royal College of Physicians, recognised that health could not be compartmentalised. His report made clear that measures affecting schools, transport, housing, employment and poverty all affect health. A review of the Black report would have implications across government departments – and it is their

agreement to its precise terms that is still awaited.

The original report - a wellthumbed copy of which was produced by Frank Dobson on his first weekend in the health department - made wide-ranging recommendations on how to reduce inequalities in health. Among them was a costly proposal - one of many - to tackle child poverty with a sharp increase in child benefit. The total cost of its proposals was put at £2bn at 1979 prices (equivalent to £5.4bn today)

6 Frank Dobson won a standing ovation from **1,500** nurses despite a grim pay warning 9

with no clear evidence that they would succeed in reducing the health divide.

The Tory government which inherited the report quietly buried it - there was no press conference and only 260 cyclostyled copies were ever printed - but it is unlikely even a Labour government would have found the means to implement it. New Labour, however,

believes there may be a new way of approaching it. At the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Harrogate last month, Frank Dobson floated the idea of a new soundbite for the next election - "vote Labour, live longer" and won a standing ovation from 1,500 nurses despite his grim warning on pay. Reducing inequalities, promoting social justice and restoring fairness has been a recurring theme in health ministers' speeches. In Mr Dobson we have a serious, old Labour commitment to

tackling injustice and in Ms Jowell, one of Tony Blair's golden wunderkind, a reflection of the new spirit of the

socially conscious times.

Ms Jowell, 49, the daughter of a doctor, is fond of citing the statistic which shows that a child born today into social class I (professionals) will on average live seven years longer than one born into social class V (manual workers). While death rates among social class V have remained unchanged over the past 70 years, among those in social class I they have halved. The poor have always died younger than the rich but the gap is widening.

Her appointment as public health minister raised hopes that the new government would look beyond the NHS to improve the nation's health. Ms Jowell, following an initia-tive by Chris Smith, Labour's health secretary until the election, when he was moved to the heritage department, has now asked Sir Donald Acheson, former government chief medical officer, if he would update the Black report. He has sub-mitted draft terms for a review

and is awaiting the go-ahead. Publication of an updated Black report would be an apt way for the Labour government to mark the NHS's 50th anniversary which falls in July next year - if such a deadline could be met. Sir Donald is known to believe that by focusing on certain "points of intervention", such as in pregnancy and infancy, measures could be taken to alleviate the health disadvantages that the poor

Reviving the Black report is an idea that holds strong appeal for Frank Dobson and Tessa Jowell, who both represent deprived inner London constituencies. Their commitment is shared by the current chief medical officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, who took a calculated political risk by

addressing a conference on poverty and ill health weeks before the election in which he highlighted the problem of stu-

dent poverty.

A serious examination of health inequalities and the measures needed to reduce them could alter the way we think about health. Shifting the focus from the process the treatments that doctors provide - to the outcomes - the number of lives saved or improved - would remind us that the main influences on health lie outside the ambit of medicine and include housing, employment and poverty. The effect would be to displace the NHS from its central role in health care to become one organisation among many including government depart-ments, local authorities, schools, employers - with a role to play in improving health.

The process was begun by the Tory government's Health of the Nation strategy, launched in 1992, which set 27 health targets to be achieved between 1994 and 2005. However, the strategy was fatally undermined in the view of many experts by its failure to acknowledge the impact of poverty. Re-targeting the strat-egy on the social class-based health divide could, if pursued with sufficient vigour, make the Tory NHS reforms seem like a minor management

review. Adoption of such a strategy would have a further virtue. It would raise a vital question about the NHS - whether all it does is worth doing. The focus on numbers of patients treated, beds occupied and operations performed which has dominated debate about health for the past 18 years could give way to a more mature consideration of the benefits treatment brings. Securing the future of the NHS is only a part of the task of protecting the nation's bealth.

A fried Mars a day keeps the doctor away? In some inner-city areas, cheap, nutritious food is almost unobtainable, the new health minister was told Jeremy Sutton Hibbert A blueprint ahead of its time

was called Report on Inequali-ties in Health Related to Social Class. There was no press con-ference and only a limited number of copies were ever printed. Most people came to know the report through the abridged version by Peter Townsend and Nick Davidson originally published by Pelican and re-printed by Penguin in 1992 under the title Inequalities in Health.

A key recommendation was that children of poor families should be given a better start in life, partly through better antenatal care and improved nutrition in pregnancy. Since the report was published evidence has accumulated that poor nutrition in the womb and in the early months of life can have consequences stretching far into later decades. The most controversial

aspect of the report was its linking of ill-health with deprivation rather than with unhealthy behaviour - principally smoking Sir Douglas Black, who chaired the working party that produced the report, wrote in The Independent in 1993: Although we considered the significance of various forms of unhealthy behaviour, including smoking, we took a view that they were not the major determinant of the relationship between deprivation and health. Our view was supported by a study of 17,000 men in various grades in the civil service which showed that most ill health was associated with socio-economic status, as measured by grade, rather than unhealthy behaviour. Among

he original Black report was published on August Bank holiday, 1980. It long-term study, premature long-term study, premature death was still more marked among the lower than the

higher grades."
Social problems called for social solutions, Sir Douglas said. Although the NHS could help alleviate ill health it could do nothing about its causes. He wrote: "For a radical cure we must recognise that the direct pursuit of wealth by some leads to unacceptable poverty for many. Unless greed is once again tempered by social compassion, embodied in a revitalised welfare state, so culpably diminished in the 1980s, we will continue in the avoidable

waste of human life and

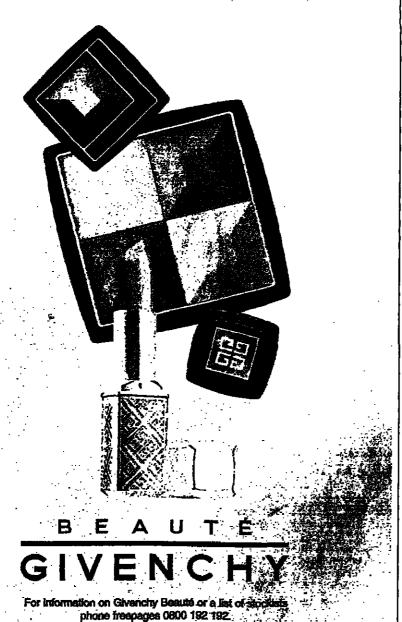
bealth.

In 1995, the Kings Fund. the independent health policy think tank, published its own analysis of the health divide entitled Tackling Inequalities in Health with a foreword by Sir Donald Acheson. Sir Donald wrote that during his eight years as the government's chief medical officer, from 1983 to 1991, he had become concerned that although the health of the nation overall was improving inequalities between social groups were increasing. He added: "Today the question is not whether these facts are valid but who cares and what ... can be done about them."

The report made a series of recommendations including greater investment in public housing (to be financed by the abolition of mortgage tax relief), tax changes to alleviate family poverty, increasing the price of cigarettes, targeting of NHS resources to deprived areas, and improvements in childcare.

COUTURE BEAUTÉ

FOR THE BEST-DRESSED FACES



Gerry Adams? Jeeves will deal with him

have been carrying around in my wallet for some time a cutting from The Daily Telegraph of Friday 27 September 1996, reporting a press conference with Gerry Adams on the occasion of the publication of his book, Before The Dawn. Occasionally I reread it, wondering why I kept it, and always I remember: it's because Gerry Adams, when asked to name his literary influences, mentioned, among other writers, the late PG Wodehouse.

So, I have been carrying this cutting around with me, wondering how on earth to use such a nugget of information - ie how to effect a rapprochement between two such unlikely bedfellows, when all the time the answer was staring me in the face:

leave it to a computer. Accordingly, I fed into the mighty computer here at The Independent as much information as I could muster about Gerry Adams, then as much input as I could muster about PG Wodehouse, and then instructed the machine to produce a story about Gerry Adams in the style of the master. At first the

machine made excuses, then pleaded a headache, but finally I got it to buckle down to it, and yesterday it came up with this charming tale.

The Irish Cousin I had been invited down for the weekend to Wolfram Towers by my uncle, Lord Wolfram, which was a dashed nuisance, as I had also been invited to a golf party by my old friend Rupert Allhallows. Given a choice between the two, only a an idiot or a man with a wooden leg, who fell over when he swung a golf club, would have elected to face Uncle Wilbert over a whole weekend. Or a man who had recently fallen somewhat in love with Uncle Wilbert's lovely daughter,

Kate, as was my case. "What would you do. Jeeves, in such a tricky situation?" I asked my faithful retainer. "That depends, sir.

whether you attach more importance to the heart or to the wrist. "Eh?"

Sometimes I find it hard to follow Jeeves through the tangled thickets of logic.
"It has always seemed to

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Miles Kington

me, sir, that the art of golf depends entirely on knowing exactly when to unroll the wrists on impact. Not much of a challenge. The art of love is a more exacting game, especially as nobody has yet codified a set of rules."

Even when he explains himself, I seldom know what

he is driving at.
"Besides, sir, our finances are very low at the moment and Lord Wolfram is a very

generous uncle." He had me there. Sightings of disposable income were currently as rare as snow at

midday in Cairo High Street, and a recent letter from my bank had expressed surprise that they had had to use so much red ink when printing my last statement. A surprised bank is not a happy bank. An unhappy bank will sometimes make life dashed awkward. Uncle Wilbert was, when in a jolly mood.

unquestionably generous. Thus it was that I reluctantly agreed with Jeeves, made my excuses to Rupert Allhallows and found myself on the Friday motoring down to Wolfram Towers.

My sadness at not being on the first tee with Rupert and chums was somewhat assuaged by the sight of Kate coming out on the steps of the stately pile to greet me. Do you know the feeling when your heart turns upside down and gives you a kick in the ribs? It is not unlike

dyspepsia, but lasts longer. "Helio, Bertie, how lovely to see you!" she cried, and before I could tell her how equally lovely it was to see her, she had pulled a chap out of the shadows beside her and said: "Oh, Bertie, do you know Gerry? He is an Irish cousin who has come to stay

the weekend. Mr Adams, do you know Bertie Wooster?"

The specimen to whom I was introduced was a man with spectacles like library windows and a beard that would not have looked out of place on a Russian bear. I took his hand and let it go. "A cousin of whom, may I

"Oh, just an Irish cousin," he smiled, using one of those smiles which have little light

and no warmth. "Are you interested in pigs?" I asked.

"Pigs?" he said.
"Lord Wolfram has a passion for prize pigs, second only to Lord Emsworth's," I said. "This weekend you may find yourself enmeshed in

long conversations about

pigs. I should be prepared." He smiled. "I think you will find I can talk long and hard on any subject without giving away what I feel or know about it,"

he said. Yes, I've heard you Irish johnnies have the gift of meaningful dialogue," I said. It was a remark which Kate was later to reprimand me for quite severely.

The denouement tomorrow!

here are the children? President Rossi President Yeltsin was recently handed a report that suggested that the Russian population, currently 147.5 million, could fall to about 120 million by 2050. It fell by nearly half-a-milhon last year. The reason is twofold: rising death rates among the middle-aged, particularly men, and a low birth rate. Russia - as a country, as a culture. as a people - is slowly dying.

But so too is much of continental Europe. While mortality continues to fall, the other side of the piner movement on population, falling birth rates, is more evident in parts of western Europe than it is even in Russia. In eastern Europe as a whole, the total fertility rate, that is the numbers of live children that a mother will have during her lifetime, is 1.n. well below the replacement rate of 2.1. But in Germany. Italy and Spain the fertility rate is now down to 1.2 -1.3. So the implications for European population levels are almost as stark as those for Russia. On present UN projections, by 2025 the German population will have fallen from its present 82 million to 76 million, and by 2050 it could be down to 60-65 million.

The UK is in a slightly different position from most of the continent, for we have a slightly higher total fertility rate, 1.8. As

nch

a result, the UK population will continue to rise, from 58 million to a peak of just over 61 million in 2025, before falling. It is just about theoretically possible that the population of the UK will be higher than that of Germany in 50-

60 years from now. What is happening here? The phenomenon is particularly marked in continental Europe and in Japan: it is not so evident in the US, or in Canada and Australia. You can, perhaps, explain the low birth rate in Russia and the rest of eastern Europe in terms of the trauma and disruption of the transition from Communism to the market economy. But in prosperous, secure, western Europe? There must be something wrong, but what it is remains a mystery. We have recently at last begun to consider some of the effects of an ageing population, on public sector pensions, for example; but the reasons, as opposed to the consequences, are hardly discussed outside

the academic world. Demographers and social scientists have put forward a host of possible explanations. There is clearly some association with the rise in job opportunities for women. The greater the chance that women have of earning a good income, the greater the cost of taking some time off to have a family. There may be some lag here in the response of the rest of society. The labour market for women has grown faster than the social infrastructure which underpins it: every-thing from child-care to the willingness of male partners to pitch in with running the home.

The links are immensely complicated, but presumably there is some connection between the set of attitudes that lead to families breaking up and the willingness to have children. Maybe there is something in the assertion that adults have become more selfish, or at least more self-centred, in their choices: that they would prefer the extra money to spend on a holiday, and the extra time, rather than



Hamish

jumped in the early 1990s was McRae because the government intro-duced a tax break for mothers who had a third child within a Not having certain period after the second. In the middle 1980s, despite children elaborate state-funded provision for child-care, the Swedish fertility rate was below the must UK's; now it is above it. Economists might further point out that if you regard represent children as a luxury consumer

some sort of vote of no confidence in the future, but what sort of vote is that?

teens. Result: they inevitably rely on parents' support for a longer period than they would a generation ago. The amount of parental investment, in both money and time, needed for each child is therefore much greater than it used to be. It is suggested in the US that having a large family has now become a signal of wealth: it boasts that "we can afford the big house, the people mover and the cello

devote it to the extra child.

tem does not help. If a women working from home has some-

one in to help run the home

office, that can be charged

against tax; but if the person is

in the next-door room helping

to look after the children, it

cannot. You think people do not consider tax when they

decide about having children?

Not so. One of the reasons why

the birth rate in Sweden

good, they are becoming a relatively more expensive one.

That is not just a silly point about the rising cost of pocket

money, designer trainers, dri-

ving lessons or, for those who

pay for it, private education. It

is more that the growing spe-cialisation of the job market

means that young people are

needing longer training and

therefore moving into jobs in their twenties rather than their

There are other more practical forces at work. The tax sys-

But it cannot just be economics, can it? The countries with those very low fertility rates -Germany, Italy and Spain - have seen an enormous increase in wealth over the past generation. Living standards are half as high again as they were in the early 1960s, when birth rates were double the present level. People are better housed all over Europe, and better fed. The fall in male fertility, however worrying in the long term, has yet to reach a point where it has an impact on birth rates. Not having children must represent some sort of vote of no confidence in the future, but if so, it is very hard to pin down what sort of vote that might be. There is surely less of an immediate fear of nuclear annihilation - that was, after all, in the time of the Cuban missile crisis and the building of

It would be absurd to try to trot out some pat explanation for a social phenomenon which cuts across societies as different as Russia, Italy and Japan, But it is not absurd to peer forward into the future and seek some sort of turning point. There is, maybe, one in sight. Fertility rates in the US have risen from the trough in the 1980s, and they are no longer falling here. People on both sides of the Atlantic are more confident talking about "family values" (including our new gov-ernment). Will this quest for more order and stability result in a modest rise in the birth rate here, and then maybe in the rest of Europe? I don't know - but I know that it matters more than the political debate about Europe's future.

Why can't Labour be positive about blacks?

en years ago today, a small electoral earth-quake shook the House of Commons as four black MPs squeezed into Parliament. Since then another five have joined the original group, but the new Labour government is unlikely to make much of the anniver-

Things are no better in other parties. Although the Conservatives had the first black minister, Nerj Deva, he lost his London seat in May. Worse were the racist jihes that John Taylor, an articulate and thoughtful black barrister, had to face over his selection to fight the true blue seat of Cheltenham for the Tories in 1992. Chastened by the actions of local activists, John Major elevated Mr Taylor to the House of Lords.

While the Government has been keen to trumpet the success of all-women shortlists, which saw the number of female Labour MPs leap from 39 before the election to 101 after, Labour officials would rather not explain why the party cannot afford eth-

nic minorities the same privilege. In the early Eighties there had been similar calls for positive representation of black candidates. After all, more than five per cent of the population were black; more than 13 per cent of the total Labour vote in 1983 came from ethnic minorities; and yet there were no black

Black Sections, a group first mooted in 1981 to further minority representation within the Labour Party, led the charge. Among its founding members were Diane Abbott, now MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Paul Boateng, then a fiery left-wing lawyer, and Sharon Atkin, a party activist.

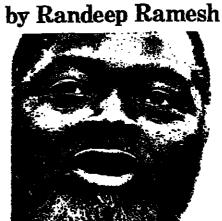
"It was just a few people talk-ing over a pizza in 1981. We were all talking about getting elected and how to do it," said Mrs Atkin. Initially the party hierar-chy welcomed the idea. And in 1983, a resolution setting out a framework for the National Executive Committee met with warm words.

We had a founding confer-

ence in 1984, which was shambolic. You have to remember then there were a lot of competing groups on the left. Militant was a big force with their own black group," says Mrs Atkin. The internal warring spilt out into the open. According to Darcus Howe, who has charted Black Sections' rise and fall, more than 200 people turned up to a heated fringe meeting in 1984. "Fifty of them (were) black. Of the blacks the majority were Militant supporters hos-

tile to the platform. When the shrapnel starting flying, the new leadership team of Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley decided to stamp out Black Sections. According to Kalbir Shukra, an academic, in













Major players in the debate over black sections: (clockwise from top left) Keith Vaz, Bernie Grant, Darcus Howe. Paul Boateng, Diane Abbott, and Sharon Atkin

his paper on the group: "They were selected to fight winnable were seen by the Labour lead-seats - and partly because their ership as an obstacle to electoral success. Consequently, Kinnock decided to whip the left into line. Black Sections did not escape

the onslaught." The Labour Party leadership refused to deal with groups

constituency parties in Brent and Leicester voted for all-black shortlists. But Mrs Atkin was, predictably, de-selected in 1987 from a safe seat in Nottingham

Diane Abbott, who has not so politician". "About 70 per cent much courted controversy as married it, is on the NEC - ironically, because of its pro-women bias. Keith Vaz, who was on the shadow front-bench environment team, was passed over in after being goaded - by the left - into saying: "I do not give a Bernie Grant, the MP for Totfavour of a white woman, and

of my electorate is white, so to represent myself in that way is wrong, he says.

The plodding rise of nonwhite MPs in the Labour Party is an uncomfortable reminder

that despite its anti-racist rhetoric the party has done littie to advance the cause of black power. "We should have about 30 black MPs," says Navendra Makanji, a Labour councillor in Haringey. "I think it will happen. The party already has 400 black councillors and I think the push will come from the grass roots."

Many say this is optimistic. Where black groups have flourished, they have been squashed. Hundreds of Asian Labour Party members are still suspended in Birmingham's Spark-brook and Small Heath, Ladywood and Manch constituencies.

The last remnants of Black Sections can be found in the

After all-women shortlists, the privilege should be extended to ethnic minorities

'based on race". Mr Hattersley, then deputy leader, who relied on a big black vote to keep his Birmingham seat, was accused by Mrs Atkin of having a "patronising and condescending atti-tude" towards black people. "Black people will not sit idly by and deliver up their vote time and again to a party which is not prepared to give them any-

thing," she threatened.

The leadership took its revenge. The NEC that year refused to endorse Russell Profitt. a black Labour Party worker. as prospective candidate for Lewisham East because the constituency party had voted for an all-black shortlist.

"There was genuine concern that by positively discriminating in favour of black people we would lose the support of whites especially the working classes." said one senior Labour official. However Paul Boateng and Keith Vaz, a 30-year-old lawyer,

a racist Labour Party."

That was the beginning of the Boateng, Abbott, Vaz and Bernie Grant - stood up to the leadership over the Atkin affair. The four candidates concen-

trated on winning seats and Mr Kinnock even claimed credit for the new black members. "(We can) begin to have a multiracial parliament to reflect a multiracial society," he told the party's 1987 conference.

Once in office, all four took very different paths to power. Paul Boateng, who on being elected had made a passionate speech which included the memorable line "Brent South today, Soweto tomorrow", is the most successful. He is now the most junior member of the five-strong health ministerial team, after years spent shadowing the Solic-

damn about Neil Kinnock and tenham, has never been asked to

What worries me is how can end for Black Sections. None of the other prospective MPs - race - like health, education and prisons. These are all concerns to the ethnic communities and there must be some way of considering black viewpoints," says Mr Grant Mr Vaz believes that the

answer to that question lies with Black Sections. "We now need to work out a cogent and coherent agenda that can form a basis for a dialogue with those in power." Others disagree. Marsha Singh, who was elected in Bradford West this year, does not consider himself a "black pew for black people.

Black Socialist Society. If its roll exceeds 2,500, a black person is guaranteed a place on the NEC. Its membership after five years stands in the hundreds. Paradoxically, Labour is keen to promote itself as a broad church. There is a youth wing, women's groups, and even Paole Zion for Jewish members - but still no

*Blair could lead in Europe. Will he?

The government has the political power to transform the EU, but doesn't know what to use its power for

Andrew

Marr

even much disrupt, the single currency. But it is now true that Britain could have a big influence on putting it back on course: in the jittery, confused atmosphere after the French change of policy and Chancellor Kohl's defeat by the Bundesbank, just imagine the effect of a

clear, pro-EMU statement by Tony Blair. He wants to be a leader in Europe. If he stood up now, over the next few days, and spoke out strongly for monetary union, he would be an instant hero in Brussels, and perhaps have great influence over the terms on which monetary union then advanced. Good idea?

Alternatively, imagine what John Major would have done with the mayhem. He would have theen gloating over the French revolt, and noting that the Bundesbank was nearer to German popular opinion than Kohl. It is hard to imagine a Tory administration living through the past few days without declaring openly against the single currency. That would have gone down well at home. It still would, if Tony Blair acted sim-

ilarly: Britain vindicated! Good idea? The Prime Minister has resisted both temptations. He still believes monetary union will happen, and is prepared for Britain to enter on the second wave. It would, perhaps, be odd if he suddenly emerged now as the defender of the euro, having been so cautious before. He is watching - not gloating, but not helping, either. He is standing by as Europe's pet project goes into purple-faced seizure. Thou shalt not kill; but need'st not strive/Officiously, to keep alive."

This is perfectly sensible, given the seriousness of the Continental crisis. In a way, both Jospin's victory, with its anti-austerity rhetoric, and the Bundesbank's brutal defeat of Kohl, were oldfashioned and powerful expressions of French and German national identity, outbursts against

final integration, one with another. The French socialists' demands for an expansionist "European economic government", and the inclusion of Spain and Italy in the first wave

t was never true that Britain could stop, or of monetary union, assert an idea of France, as the statist and semi-protectionist leader of the Mediterranean bloc, that terrifies the Germans. And the Bundesbank's refusal to allow the German government to fiddle its way into the Maastricht conditions was a defence of the virtuous D-mark, the key symbol of post-war German identity, against the unpopular, polygiot euro.

Given the angst on both sides, it is hardly surprising that Blair has not leapt to defend EMU: why sprint to catch a train that may be just about to crash off the This means, however, that he

will not be an important voice in the most important debate confronting Europe. He will not seize the opportunity to help bury monetary union, or to save it. So how will he lead? After all, on the face of it, he

has a wonderful opportunity to do so. Whereas Major was seen as a loser who had no deep sympathy for the EU, and whose party was divided, Blair still has the rosy glow of victory on him. His huge majority and his disciplined party

he will be in power for a long time. They are well aware that a dangerous gap has opened up between Europe's political leadership and its people - and perhaps this man has ideas on how to close it? In sum, what Blair says will be lis-

Yet on the three key areas where Labour says it wants progress in Europe - labour-market flexibility, expansion to the east, and the completion of the single market -you could hardly put a cigarette paper (to use the previous prime minister's phrase) between triumphant Blair in June and hapless Major in April.

pushy and optimistic on the jobs front than his predecessor, who suffered from the general disregard felt for his government. He and Blair are tirely right about the importance of jobs, and flexible labour markets, and the need for our European time zone to compete effectively with the American and Asian time zones.

But there is a long way to go. If the New Labour approach is to mean anything more than Thatcherism with a different rhetorical twist, it will require bigger investment in retraining and education than anyone is yet committed to. And retraining alone will not save the EU if monetary union falls apart. There needs to be a political agenda, 100.

At the coming Amsterdam summit it is hard to see any huge difference in the British positions caused by the general election. The tough anti-federalist lines on border controls, policing, defence and so on will seem familiar to other European governments indeed, where the approach is different it is because Labour is taking a harder line than the

ram home the message to other EU leaders that qualified majority voting in unimportant areas. and the well-trailed difference over membership of the social chapter, but, in the grand scale of things, these are footling.

This adds up, doesn't it, to a new government which wants to transform our relations with the rest of the EU, and has the political power to do so; but which doesn't yet know what to use its power for. There is a disjuncture between Blair's European stature and Blair's current European agenda.

No one in Downing Street will be much worried about that. A leader who promised Sun no naptess transform has been more vigorous, readers that he would patriotically stand up to could that be?

nasty European federalists would be content to return from Amsterdam with assurances on borders and defence, and a few concessions on majority voting in abstruce areas. But the opportunities for a new era in British relations with the Continent are far greater than that.

Above all, whether the Euro goes ahead or not, Europe badly needs some radical political rethinking. Tony Blair was elected on a platform which stressed inclusion and jobs, and he has taken that message to other EU countries whose leaderships are far less popular, and who are therefore interested in his message. But he was also elected on a programme of democratic reform. Wouldn't it be right, too, to turn that agenda on a European audience?

Yes, they have PR and we don't. Most other countries are already less centralised than Britain. None of them has a hereditary chamber. That is the unfinished business of Britain

But Europe needs reform, too. I don't believe the EU can survive without a simpler, more understandable and responsive political system. How can the rambling. Byzantine hierarchy of committees and acronyms, accumulated over decades of deals and compromises, be compatible with popular consent? We need an open, public Council of Ministers, a reined-in Commission, and even a European constitution, which makes clear the limits to "ever-closer union". What we don't understand, we will end

If EMU goes ahead, European political reform will become essential. If EMU collapses, it will be the only alternative agenda left for a traumatised Union. Yet no mainstream leader is seriously discussing it; virtually no work has been done on it; barely a single speech has touched on it. Europe desperately needs somebody with the confidence and power to grab this agenda - someone who is going to be around for a while, and has courage and vision. Now, who

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(Fapplicable)

Li Shuxian

peror" of China, immortalised (with some of his character traits deliberately overlooked) in Bernardo Bertolucci's Oscarwinning film, The Last Emperor (1987).

Though she probably knew him better than any of his contemporaries, she did not know him all that long: they met and married in 1962. Five years latcr, at the height of the Cultur-al Revolution. Pu Yi died of lung cancer.

It was said that Chou En-lai himself, fascinated by Pu Yi's "born-again" Maoist faith after his 10-year detention in Fushun "re-education centre", encouraged the match. Chou, himself from an aristocratic mandarin family, had taken an interest in Pu Yi ever since Stalin had handed him back to the Communist Chinese in 1950.

Prior to that Pu Yi, the puppet emperor of Japanese-run Manchuria, had been living under comfortable detention in a commandeered spa near Khabarovsk - along with a handful of senior officials and generals who had collaborated with Japan.

Characteristically Pu Yi had abandoned his then wife, Elizabeth, and his teenage concubine, in Manchuria soon after Emperor Hirohito's historic speech ("the war situation had developed, not necessarily to our advantage") marking the end of the Second World War, following the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. In August 1945 the Japanese had tried their best to smuggle Pu Yi out of Manchuria but he was still on the tarmac at Mukden, waiting for a plane, when Russian paratroopers landed there and ar-

Chou En-lai took a personal interest in Pu Yi and monitored his progress. As the last Chinese emperor (even if he

Li Shuxian was the widow of Pu Yi epitomised the evil "old Aisin Goro Pu Yi, the "last em- society" and his transformation into an exemplary Communist citizen demonstrated the superiority of the Chinese revolutionary system.

> servility on Pu Yi's part. Sig-nificantly, "Big Li", Pu Yi's personal servant from 1924 until the year of his release from re-education camp believed, when I met him, that Pu Yi was a "professional survivor" and that his ostentatious humility in the last years of his life was entirely contrived.

Li Shuxian, a hospital nurse. was related to one of the puppet Manchurian generals who had kept Pu Yi company in Fushun. When they married, Pu Yi was, officially, employed as a gardener at the Peking Botan-ical Gardens. In fact this sinecure, provided thanks to Chou, only lasted three years, during which time he did very

little actual gardening. He was then given another sinecure, as an archivist in the China People's Political and Consultative Committee - and would in all likelihood, had he lived, have become a member of this organisation (Pu Yi's brother Pu Chie was appointed a member in 1980).

At least once a year, Chou En-lai invited Pu Yi and Li over to dinner. He also saw to it they got privileged accommodation in a modern building. Pu Chie lived in unusual privacy in a small but comfortably traditional house in a central Peking

hunng (alley).

According to Li Wenda, the 8th Army veteran and ex-editor who "ghosted" Pu Yi's autobiography (From Emperor to Cit-izen, published 1964), the last four years of Pu Yi's life were not specially happy. "His wife was a shrew," he told me. "She nagged him ceaselessly." If so,

she may have been exacting some form of revenge on the child concubines who had been so ill-treated by him in his puppet emperor days.

Whatever his ambiguous sex-Bertolucci's film tells the story with an obviously sympathetic bias: there are no hints of brainwashing nor of any time-serving prematurely, caricaturally, absent-minded and his years in Fushun had not enabled him to look after himself. For all his bumility, he still expected to be waited on hand and foot, and, in Li Wenda's words, "had a genius for creating an instant, disorderly mess around him". The first hint of Li's displea-

sure came a year after my book, The Last Emperor (1987), was published. She wrote to me, in English, from Shanghai, where she was then working as a nurse in a hospital, asking why I had not bothered to get in touch with her while researching the book. I wrote back saying I had been told (by the film's pro-duction team) that she had refused to collaborate with them. On a subsequent visit to China, I added, I would very much like to meet her, and - in any subsequent printing - rewrite my fi-nal chapter, if indeed I had been

There was no reply, but a year later, out of the blue, she sued me under French law for making "false allegations" about her husband, also demanding substantial financial damages. Court proceedings dragged on and on: she lost in one court, appealed and lost again. Perhaps she idealised her relationship with Pu Yi after his death. Those who knew her, and whose notarised testimony turned out to be crucial to the lawsuit's outcome, think not. "She only wanted money," they said.

Edward Behr

Li Shuxian: born 1924; married



1962 Aisin Goro Pu Yi (died 1967); died Peking 10 June 1997. Li standing beside her husband's tomb, on the outskirts of Peking, 1996

Esmé, Countess of Carlisle



Carlisie: 'special duties Photograph: Desmond O'Neill

Esmé, Countess of Carlisle was the epitome of that vanishing breed, the aristocratic lady who considered it no more than her duty to devote her life to the serto strive for high office, or high-profile appointments, in order to do so.

She was born into a tradition of service. Her father, Charles Iredell, was a distinguished physician at Guy's Hospital, cer studies. Her early years were spent in the gracious surroundings of Regent's Park, in a London which, in 1914, the vear she was born, had but lately left behind the standards and the certainties of Edwar-

Esmé never left them behind. Reference books record her

education, laconically, as "St Paul's School, University of London", disguising the fact that she graduated from Bed-ford College with an excellent First in Italian language and litvice of others, yet would have First in Italian language and lit-considered it just a little vulgar erature, which she put to good use in her Civil Service career.

Between 1936 and 1944 she was assigned to "special duties" in London, Aden, Athens, Cairo, Algiers and Rome, which she later made politely clear to friends and colleagues it was however, reason to believe that they included work for MI6. monitoring German broadcasts in Italian to Mediterranean countries at a crucial period of the Second World War, and that she was not unconnected with the sinking of German ships in Piraeus during the invasion of Greece.

1947, that she became the second wife of the 11th Earl of Carlisle, and, until his death in 1963, she looked after ber familv, and assisted him in running the affairs of the Howard estate. in London and at Naworth Castle in Cumberland. It is entirely characteristic of her mode of life that every day, unless they were "sore let or hindered", the two hours before dinner

literature. Standards must be maintained. She joined the staff of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries (now the Museums and Galleries Commission) in 1971, and worked as a consultant and assistant to it until her retirement in 1986.

During that period the com-

works of English or European

It was just after the war, in mission published a number of advisory reports for Government - on Conservation, Museums in Wales, in Northern Ireland, on a National Framework for Museums, and various commissioners were credited with authorship. In fact, most of them were

written by Lady Carlisle, and they are models of fine English prose. She also wrote a scholarly and generous History of the were devoted to the reading of Commission itself, of which it pen in the milk of human kindness". But she was by no means simply a scribe. Few knew that at the age of about 60 she took up ski-ing, or that she was an expert on Italian wines, capable of holding her own in conversations with her friend the late Cyril Ray.

In retirement at Duns Tew in

Oxfordshire she devoted herself to her garden and her family, her daughter Lady Susan de Meyer, and her deeply adored but firmly supervised grandchildren, Alexander and Flora. Esmé Carlisle was beautiful, elegant, high-principled, piercingly intelligent, yet the servant of her country in many different ways. The term noblesse oblige might have been coined to describe her.

Esmé Mary Shrubb Iredell, public servant: born 7 February 1914; secretary to Working Parties, Museams and Galleries Commission 1971-86, acting secretary to the Commission 1976; married 1947, George, 11th Earl of Carlisle (died 1963; one daughter); died Adderbury, Oxfordshire 4 June

Jacques Canetti

Marlene Dietrich had always refused to cut a record in French, until she had the good luck to encounter in Paris a great discoverer of musical talents, Jacques Canetti.

He was a younger brother of Elias Canetti, the Nobel prizewinner for literature in 1981. But while Elias went on to to make a name as a writer in Austria, Germany and Britain, Jacques made his way from their home-town, Ruse in Bulgaria, to Paris, where he specialised in German studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales. After graduation, he entered the recording company Polydor in 1931, where he began by sticking "labels with a hole" on the records, a task requiring more delicate preci-sion than might at first be enbboseq (

It was while engaged on this humble task that he met Dietrich and charmed her into making her first record entirely in French. He was promoted, organised sessions of le jazz-hot on the radio, and produced the first concerts by Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong in Paris. But he also directed the recordings for Ravel's Quatuor and Alban Berg's Suite Lyrique by the string quartet Galimir. In 1936 Canetti became artis-

tic director at Radio-Cité, determined to promote both classical music and jazz. His popular programme Le Music-hall des Jeunes was the first audience-participation venture on French radio, in which young talents were displayed and listeners were encouraged to phone in their votes for the best artist.

Canetti's first discovery in this way was Agnès Capri, a pupil of both Charles Dullin at the Atelier and of the Schola Cantorum. The switchboard was flooded when Edith Piaf made her first transmission. He signed her up, and followed her with Charles Trenet and Lucienne Delyle, later famous for her nostalgic Parisian chansons like "Sur les quais du vieux

Canetti's enthusiasm for hot jazz as well as chanson led him to start writing for the British weekly the Melody Maker and to organise tours of Hot Jazz stars all over the United Kingdom. It was he who first introduced to Europe Cab Calloway and all the leading jazz instrumentalists and singers of the pre-war period. He became known as the mpresario of the Immortals.

With the outbreak of war, Jacques Canetti became director of programmes at Radio-France Alger, and formed his first company of actors and chanson singers that toured all over North Africa and the Middle East.

Among his stars were the great actress Françoise Rosay and the comedian Pierre Dac. On his return to France in 1947, he started the Théâtre des Trois Baudets, a celebrated launching-pad for young singers in Pigalle. He began to spe-

"author-composer-interpreter" performances, most of them signed up by him for Polydor-Philips, of which he became artistic director.

It was at Les Trois Baudets that I heard my first chanson stars in the late 1940s -Georges Brassens, Jacques Brel, Serge Gainsbourg, Juliette Gréco, Guy Béart, Jacqueline François, Felix Leclerc from Canada. Other now-familiar names who appeared in that cabaret before it closed down. to my chagrin, in 1960, wer Léo Ferré, Les Frères Jacques, Michel Legrand, Mouloudii and Henri Salvador.

Canetti appears in books by or about some of these artists - in Juliette Gréco's thirdperson autobiography hujube, in Philippe Boggio's immense bi-ography of Boris Vian, in Jackie Berroyer's Rock 'n' Roll e-chocolat blanc (with a richly ec-centric portrait of the maverick Jacques Higelin, whose 12 Chansons d'avant le déluge was produced by Canetti) and many

Canetti, volatile and hyperactive, found he could no longer bear the restraints of Polydor, and Philips, so he set up his own recording company in 1963, for which he produced Jeanne Moreau's first records, and the early work of Serge Reggiani, who is still making the best of an almost extinct voice on Pascal Sevran's afternoon television show La Chance aux Chan-sons, in films directed by his son. and in all the leading music-halls of France.

Canetti founded his Disques Canetti in order to accommodate such unclassifiable artists. of the chanson as Simone Signature and Boris Vian. He had an uncanny flair for detecting hidden talent, and, once discovered, he never let them down. Cora Vaucaire said of him: "He never treated artists as if they were consumer prod-ucts." He encouraged them 2 develop their gifts and personalities, and consoled them when they flopped or had stage-fright. He also managed the careers of Maurice Chevalier and Yves Montand, organising highly suc-cessful tours for them both in

Natior

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Chris Gods- ***

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France and abroad. His memoirs, On cherche jeune homme aimant la musique (1978), are full of fascinating stories about the famous, and his "discoveries" have been enshrined in two recent CDs devoted to chanson and comedy. One of his stars, Guy Béart, paid homage to his impresario thus: "In the field of the chanson, he merited the same honours as his brother

had won for literature." Certainly many of the sor have become immortal standards of the French - and the international - musical scene. **James Kirkup**

Jacques Canetti, musical director and impresario: born Ruse, Bulgaria 30 May 1909; died Suresnes (Hauts-de-Seine), cialise in the direction of France 7 June 1997.

Professor Peter Winch

In his obituary of Peter Winch [3 June], Anthony Palmer stated that Winch was Professor of Philosophy at King's College London from 1976, writes Paul Thornley. In fact Peter Winch held the (only) chair there throughout my undergraduate study in the Philosophy Department from 1972 to 1975 as even logic) could not require well (and had interviewed me for

entry in the autumn of 1971). Palmer expresses very well Winch's insistence that a philosophical study of language must involve an examination of human society (I think he would have preferred "human life"); but he would also insist that an objective study of language (or life or terms and concepts quite alien

to the context being examined that such an investigation is not tainted by trying to understand the lives of others "from the inside". It is a delusion of language that we can make sense of language "externally", and has nothing to do with the scientist's concern that the observation of a process may interfere with what is being measured.

I only remember one occasion when Peter Winch expressed any diffidence about his early work or teaching. The Idea of a Social Science and that was at a seminar outside London. I believe that he saw the seeds of his later work within the book, however clumsily expressed, and simply wanted to protect an opportunity for fruit-

Over many years of contact, ful discussion from the stercotypical comments of those who knew nothing else of his writings

Within the department he set a very fine example of intellectual honesty, and of taking the subject seriously. When on this home territory, he trusted himself and his students to follow wherever the argument went

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice

Gibson and Sir Jain Glidewell)

16 May 1997

Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter

On the hearing of a substantive

application for judicial review

where leave had been granted.

the court could not refuse re-

lief on the basis of undue de-

lay in bringing the proceedings,

in the absence of hardship,

prejudice or detriment to the re-

for compensation to the Crim-

inal Injuries Compensation

Board, claiming that she had been raped and buggered in the

course of a burglary. Her ap-

plication was refused following

an oral hearing. Evidence of a

doctor, who had examined the

applicant after her complaint

was made, was not made avail-

able to the Board. Instead the

Board relied on the evidence

of the police officer who had

taken the applicant to the doc-

tor, which was unintentionally

Leave to move for judicial re-

view was applied for and grant-

ed 10 months after the Board

had given written reasons for

its decision, the doctor's notes

having eventually been ob-

tained. Popplewell J heard the

substantive application for ju-

dicial review and found that the

Board should have adjourned

misleading.

The applicant had applied

spondent or a third party.

and was not in the least defensive of set positions. He always aimed to do philosophy when giving lectures, not to present finished and polished efforts (and here he gave thanks to the inspiring example of Rush Rhees, who held a visiting post at the

college for some of this period). Professor Winch offered support, encouragement and a

framework of questioning for his students, whose interests were as diverse as the history of art and mathematics. If he had something of a reputation for prickliness in the circles of academic philosophy, we knew that it stemmed entirely from his fierce concern that the subject mattered and should be taken

Demonstrations of erudition and verbal subtlety were not allowed to be passed off as depth of thinking. The gesture with clenched fingers and grinding of teeth with which he would respond to some clumsy (or dextrous) skating across the surface of an important topic was known to us, affectionately, as a "winch".

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

SKINNER: Edward Jonathan Quent SMANNER Edward Sonama Chemian suddenly, in London, on 6 June, Much-loved son of Joy and Jimmy Skinner and brother of Catherine, Surah and Stephen, Memorial service at St Paul's, Knightsbridge, 4pm. Tuesday 1 July, Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, 0171-229 3810.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 66.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted to a submi Gazette autouncements must be sub-mitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENCAGEMENTS
The Oneen Mother visits Smithfield Market and has function at Butchers' Hall, London BC1 The Princess Royal, Patron, Royal College of Anacetheists, attends the Diplomatus' Ceremony, to be formally installed as Patron of the College at the Institute of Education, and afterwards visus the Royal College of Anacetheists, London WC1; as Chancellor, London University, attends the 9th Ammersary of the Institute of Adacated Legal Studies, Charles Clore House, London WC1; and as Patron, Assentition of Continued Youth Crite, visit New Bitham Micharles Youth and Community Centre, London SE, Gircensech Youth Aid, London SES, Gircensech Youth Aid, London SES, and Gircensech Youth Democracy Project, London SE, Princess Margaret, Potron, Northern Ballet Theatre, attends a Gala Performance of Directle of the Grand Theatre, Leach The Bake of Newt attends a petrate previous of the Girovenech Fine Arte and Anthines Fair, London W.; Che par Jim of the Consent.

Changing of the Guard

Birthdays

er, 71; Mr James Bostock, painter and engraver, 80; Mr Michael Cacoyannis, film and stage director, 75; Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, former Lord Advocate, 66; M Jacques-Yves Cousteau, undersea explorer, 87; Miss Lindsey de Paul, singer and composer, 47: Mr John Dyson, cricketer, 43; Sir Anthony Evans, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 63; Sir Marcus Fox, former MP, 70; Mr Athol Fugard, actor, director and playwright, 65; Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Gerken, former chairman, Plymouth Development Corpora-tion, 65; Dame Beryl Grey, former prima ballerina, 70; Mr Dundas lamilton, former chairman, Wates City of London Properties, 78; Mrs Rachnel Heyhoe Flint, journalist, broadcaster and cricketer, 58; Mr Alan Howarth MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Education and Employment, 53; Mr Hugh Laurie, actor, 38; Mr Paul Mellon, former president. Washington National Gallery of Art, 90; Mr Michael Meyer, novelist and translator, 76; Miss Jenny Pitman, racehorse trainer, 51; Mr John Shakespeare, diplomat, 67; Mr Jackie Stewart, champion racing driver, 58; Mr Richard Todd, actor, 78; Sir Gerard Vaughan, former government minister, 74; Mr Gene Wilder, actor, 62; General

Anniversaries

Births: Ben Jonson, playwright, 1572; George Withers, poet and pam-phleteer, 1588; John Constable, painter, 1776; Hablot Knight Browne ("Phiz"), artist and illustrator, 1815; Mariano José Maria Bernardo For-tuny, pointer, 1838; Carl von Linde,

chemist and engineer, 1842; Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett, women's

Miss Diana Armfield, painter, 77; Mr John Aspinall, casino and 200 ownrights campaigner, 1847; Mrs Humphry Ward (Mary Augusta Arnold), novelist, 1851; Richard Strauss, composer, 1864; Bert Lee, popular composer, 1880. Deaths: James III. King of Scotland, assas-sinated 1488; Sir Kenelm Digby, diplomat and writer, 1665; Clemens Weazel Lothar, Prince Metternich-Winneburg, statesman, 1859; Sir James Brooke, raia of Sarawak. 1868: King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia, assassinated at Belgrade 1903; Sir Frank (François Guillanme) Brangwyn, artist, 1956; John Wayne (Marion Michael Morrison), actor, 1979. On this day: James IV became King of Scotland, 1488: King Henry VIII was married to Catherine of Aragon, 1509; Michiel de Ruyter, Dutch naval commander, defeated the English Admirai George Monck, 1666; the Covenanters were victorious at the Battle of Drumclog against the Royal troops under Claverhouse, 1679: James, Duke of Monmouth, landed at Lyme Regis. Dorset, to seize the British throne. 1685; George II was proclaimed King of Great Britain, 1727: all members perished in the expedition under Sir John Franklin to find the North West Passage, 1847; the Evening Standard newspaper was first published, 1860; the Norwegian parliament granted universal suffrage to women, 1913; the liner Empress of Britain was launched at Clydebank, 1930; the Disarmament Conference Sir Michael Wilkes, Lieutenant-Governor and Commander-in-Chief. at Geneva ended in failure, 1934; at the 24-hour motor race at Le Mans, France, 82 spectators were killed

when a car skidded off the track and

exploded, 1955; the first oil from the

British North Sea oilfields was

pumped ashore, 1975; the London

production of the musical show Bar-

num opened, 1981. Today is the

Feast Day of St Barnabas the Apos-

tle. Saints Felix and Fortunatus, St Parisius and St Poula Frasinetti.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lynda Stephens, "Pictures in Pictures (ii): follower of Massys, Saint Larke Painting the Virgin and Child*, 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: David

Huckvale, "The Development of Keyboard Instruments", 2.30pm; women's lives in 18th-century art" 7.15pm (tickets required). Tate Gallery: Julic Summers, "Hen ry Moore: the release of form from

Institute of Economic Affairs, London SWI: William Bratton, "Zero Tolerance: policing in a free society" 6.30pm.

Modern Law Review (held in the Shaw Library, London School of Economics, London WC2): Judge Antonio Cassese, "Reflections on International Criminal Justice", opm.

Dinners United Oxford and

Cambridge University Club Pieter van der Merwe, Head of Publications, National Maritime Museum, was the principal speaker at a dinner held yesterday evening at the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club, London SW1. His sub-ject was "Cape St Vincent - Nelson" Patent Bridge". Mr Bruce Williams Chairman of the Club, presided,

Royal Society of Medicine

Dr Robert Buckman delivered the Royal Society of Medicine's Stevens Lecture for the Laity yesterday evening in the Society's House, London W1, on the subject: "Why are we so alraid of cancer?" Mr P.H. Schutt, Vice-President of the Society, accompanied by Mrs Schurr, received the guests at a reception and dinner

Delay alone is not reason to refuse relief Regina v Criminal Injuries LAW REPORT Compensation Board, ex parte A;

11 June 1997

the hearing for the report to be obtained. He went on, howev-sion, exp Worth [1985] STC 564, er, to find that there had been later approved obiter by Evans undue delay in bringing the proceedings, that there was no good reason for extending time, and that accordingly no relief would be granted. Nicholas Blake QC and Elizabeth Woodcraft (Miller Paris, Worthing) for

the applicant: Michael Kent QC (Treasury Solicitor) for the Board. Lord Justice Simon Brown said that it was sought to impugn the Board's decision on two grounds: that the Board had acted unfairly, first in not of its own initiative obtaining

the doctor's report or ad-

journing so that it could be ob-

tained; and secondly in relying on the police officer's evidence about the medical examination. The first and main issue arising on the appeal was whether, absent hardship, prejudice or detriment, it was open to the court on the hearing of the substantive judicial review motion, for which leave had been granted, to dismiss the challenge on the ground of un-

due delay. That was clearly an issue of considerable general impor-tance, which had only previously been the subject of a decision at first instance, in R

sion, ex p Worth [1985] STC 564, LJ in Patterson v London Bor-

ough of Greenwich (1993) 26 HLR 159.

It was necessary to keep in mind the two legislative provisions governing delay: RSC Order 52 rule 4, and section 31 1981. Quite different questions arose with regard to delay depending on whether the point was raised at the leave stage or at the substantive

hearing.

At the leave stage the question was whether there was good reason for extending time and allowing the substantive application to be made. At the substantive hearing, however, the question was whether, in a case where there was initially undue delay, the merits of the challenge should be overriden by the hardship, prejudice or detriment that would result from the grant of relief. It followed that Worth had been wrongly decided and that Popplewell I had erred in dismissing the present challenge on

grounds of delay. Turning to the substantive grounds of the challenge, the applicant's submission that the Board themselves were under

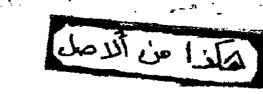
a duty to obtain the doctor's report must be rejected, otherwise such a duty would arise in every sexual case. Equally it was impossible to conclude in the present case that the Board should have adjourned the

hearing.
The applicant's second submission was that the present case came within the principle, established in a long line of cases culminating in R v Bolton Justices, ex p Scally [1991] 1 QB of the Supreme Court Act 537, that there might be grounds for judicial review even though there had been no error or misconduct on the part of the tribunal itself, when unfairness in the proceedings resulted from some failure on the prosecutor's part, in the ab-

sence of fraud or dishonesty. It was argued that the police ought to be regarded as acting in relation to the Board's procedures in a role akin to that of a prosecutor before a coventional tribunal. The critical distinction, however, between the present case and the Scally cases was in the respective nature of the processes be-

ing undertaken. The applicant had therefore failed to make good either ground of her substantive challenge with the result that her appeal must fail, albeit for very different reasons to those

given by Popplewell J. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



US utility

set to

take over

Energy

Group

Energy Group, the electricity and coal producer that was

demerged from Hanson earli-

er this year, is set to be taken

over for £3.6bn by the giant US

utility PacifiCorp.

In a brief statement to the

Stock Exchange last night

Energy Group, which owns Eastern Electricity and the US

coal producer Peabody. dis-

closed that it was in talks that

could lead to a recommended

offer from PacifiCorp at a 20 per

cent premium to yesterday's

The statement, released after

the close of the stock market,

was made at the insistence of the

Takeover Panel and followed a

sharp rise in the company's

share price in the last few days.

Energy Group closed 16p up last

night at 580p, compared with a

low for the year of 466p.

If the offer goes ahead it

would be the first big test of the

Labour Government's attitude

towards a takeover of a regional

electricity company by an over-

seas utility. Six of the 12 Recs

are already owned by US power

Apart from owning Eastern,

which Hanson bought for

£2.5bn in August, 1995, and

Peabody, Energy Group is also Britain's fourth biggest elec-

tricity producer with a 12 per cent share of the generating

PacifiCorp is one of the biggest utilities in the US with a market capitalisation of \$6bn (£3.7bn). Based in Portland,

Oregon, it supplies electricity in

seven western states and also

owns a telecoms company,

Pacific Telecom, serving 10

The US utility was linked with

several rumoured takeovers of

regional electricity companies

during the bid frenzy that has seen most of the sector change

ownership in the last two years

but it never actually made an

states in the west of the US.

make a seventh.

closing price.

Michael Harrison

business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Commercial Union to slash costs by £100m

Financial Editor

Commercial Union unveiled a £100m cost-cutting programme yesterday in a bid to face down the growing threat from the ment and a further £20m from direct telephone insurers. Acknowledging that it needed to raise its game in an increas-ingly cut-throat market, the group promised it could push through the improvements with (no compulsory redundancies.

Analysts welcomed CU's attempt to catch up with new entrants to the general insurance market but questioned the lack of detail provided by the comрапу. They said management was unclear who would benefit from the cost improvements and said there was a concern that the savings would be eaten up by the lower premiums needed to maintain market share.

The company said yesterday it would deliver "significant added value" but refused to break down how much of the savings would go to customers in the form of better prices, how much would be reinvested in the businesses, and how much shareholders would see in higher

slash CU's ratio of expenses to remium income by cutting £40m from the cost of dealing with claims, generating a similar saving from better manage-

more profitable underwriting. He said CU had been working on the programme, dubbed "market orientation", for the past two years. The proposed changes, which would rely on natural wastage to reduce staff numbers, were agreed with unions. About 1,000 of CU's 5,500 staff leave each year.

Analysts said the moves were CU's response to a fast changing insurance market that has seen new entrants such as Direct Line attack the traditional players' markets with the benefit of lower cost bases and more efficient systems.

General insurance, which includes commercial, household and car insurance, has seen tough competition for several years, with insurers desperate to find new ways of winning new customers and squeezing profit from businesses struggling with persistently low premium rates.

The changes, analysts said, reflected a realisation by the in-Peter Rice, a director of the general insurance arm, said were regarded by the stock of the market.

yesterday the measures would market as poorly managed businesses and rated accordingly. Although CU is considered to be one of the best managed businesses in the industry, it admitted yesterday that continu-ing to do things in the same way was not an option.

Mr Rice said the £40m of supply chain savings would be achieved by aggregating a scries of small changes. These would involve better systems to prevent overpayment of claims, better purchasing of replace-ment goods such as carpets and white goods, and better partnership arrangements with loss adjusters. Litigation is to be consolidated into a small number of offices.

He said, however, that there were no plans to copy Royal & Sun Alliance by outsourcing the handling of claims on its household account.

Andy Homer, managing director of the UK general in-surance business, added: "We're trying to drive out the wasted cost that's built into an industry that does a lot of its trans-

actions by paper."
The reorganisation also entails changing the head office into nine new business units which focus on different areas



Slipping: Commercial Union has seen tough competition from direct insurers for household business in recent years

wins appeal on pensions

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

The privatised electricity companies breathed a huge sigh of relief yesterday after National Grid and National Power unexpectedly won their appeal against a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman which would have forced the industry to hand back more than £1bn to its pensions funds.

The two National Grid pensioners who began the fight over pensions surpluses. David Laws and Reg Mayes, immediately pledged to appeal against the High Court ruling. But it was unclear last night whether Trustees of the Grid's pensions fund would agree to continue funding the pensioners through an appeal.

Mr Laws said he was "bitterly disappointed" by the ruling of Mr Justice Robert Walker, who argued that the Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, had "misunderstood" the law when he told the Grid to pay back a £46m surplus removed from the fund after a valuation in 1992. The Grid had divided up a £62.3m surplus, giving 30 per cent to pensioners in enhanced benefits and using the rest to fund improved redundancy

"If we get funding we'll appeal. The fact the judge has given us leave to appeal says a lot. It's taken us four years to get this far and we've got a good case. It was not right for the Grid to use the surplus as a pot

of gold," Mr Laws said. National Power had joined the case in a pre-emptive move to avoid paying back about £250m to its fund, part of a £377m surplus identified in 1992 and 1995. Most power companies used surpluses to help pay for hig redundancy

14439.71 -215.42

programmes, with National Power's workforce dropping

The Ombudsman's landmark ruling argued the Grid acted unlawfully in using the sur-plus, a move specifically outlawed by the scheme's rules. But the judge said the Grid's actions were "reasonable and proper", drawing on another paragraph in the rules which said it was the company's responsibility to deal with surpluses.

Mr Justice Walker added: "His directions were, as I have held, based on a misunderstanding of the terms of the scheme and of the employer's duties in dealing with surplus."

However, the judge admitted that much of the law on surpluses depended on often subtle wording of scheme rules. Mr Justice Walker said it was of "real public concern" that very large amounts of cash depended on arguments *about how many angels can stand on the point of a needle". Mr Laws and Mr Mayes

were partly funded by the scheme's trustees while the Ombudsman declined to appear in court. But both the trustees and electricity unions had supported the company's position. The Grid is now expected to "advise" the trustees not to pay for an appeal. It would be illogical. The judgment is quite clear," said a source close the company.

Solicitors for National Power pensioners were also considering an appeal. Angela Dimsdale Gill, from Lovell White Durrant, said the ruling went beyond the electricity industry and could be a "green light" to other companies with large surpluses.

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Source: FT Information

National Grid | CBI calls for Brown to raise taxes by £2bn

by a further percentage point to 7.5 per cent unless the Chancellor Gordon Brown increases personal taxes by £2bn in the forthcoming Budget, the Confederaton of British Industry warned yesterday.

employers' organisation said already hurting the UK's export from 16,273 in 1991 to 5,139 in that a small fiscal tightening was performance. necessary to keep inflation in check but that this should not increases should fall on individbe at the expense of business.

Adair Turner, Director-general of the CBI, said that unless Interest rates will need to rise action was taken to slow the growth in spending then the economy risked a return to the "boom and bust" of the past.

"However, we are cautious about relying solely on interest rates to curb demand since that could drive sterling up at In its Budget submission, the a time when the high pound is

uals, not businesses, he said.

Although an extra penny on tax would raise £2.1bn and be enough to satisfy the CBI, Labour fought the election on a pledge that the basic and higher rate of tax would not go up.

The CBI said the Chancellor would need to look hard at the remaining options - allowances, national insurance. VAT and tobacco.

But it suggested that the triggering higher dividend pay-Chancellor could raise a large amount of the £2bn by limiting personal tax reliefs to the basic rate of tax rather than the

higher rate. The most widely touted corporate tax change is a further lition of tax credits on dividends.

ments to tax-exempt funds or increased employer contributions.

The CBI said that, though it remained opposed to the windfall tax because it was retrospective, arbitrary and unfair, it accepted the tax would go restriction on or even the abo- ahead and agreed with the purpose to which the money would excise duties. It opposes any cuts a move that would raise some be put - retraining the long-in basic tax allowances, the £4bn. But the CBI warned that term unemployed. But it said abolition of Miras, reduced re- this would be counterproductive the Government must set out If taxes were to go up, then the liefs on PEPs or Tessas and high- as it would cut funds available clearly who would pay, how er duties on petrol, alcohol or for investment and reduce the much would be raised and how actuarial value of pension funds. the tax would be levied.

per cent at Amersham.

There is plenty more fat to go

The details came as Amer

from Pharmacia," he said.

offer. Energy Group was spun off in February - the last of the four divisions of Hanson to be demerged - and is listed in both London and New York. It made operating profits of £466m on sales of £3.8bn in the year to September 1996.

Since the demerger it has acquired the US electricity trading company Citizens Power. which is based in Boston, for

This deal makes a great PacifiCorp employs 12,000 deal of strategic sense and it and carned \$505m in net inshould be carnings enhancing. The Pharmacia business has 9 come on revenues of \$4.3bn in per cent margins compared to

Talks between the two companies are being led by Energy group's executive chairman, Derek Bonham, and Fred Buckman, president and chief operating officer of PacifiCorp. nergy Group is being advised by Lazards and Morgan Staney and PacifiCorp's advisers are Goldman Sachs, which advised Eastern on its £2.5bn sale to Hanson in 1995.

Comment, page 25

Amersham to control APB



New job: Bill Castell will

Amersham and Pharmacia & Upjohn, the US-Swiss group, yesterday announced the full world's biggest biotechnology

Sameena Ahmad

terms of the merger of their life sciences divisions into the supply business and have agreed to prepare the joint venture for flotation by 2000. The new business, called Amersham Pharmacia Biotech, will have annual sales of £430m. 3.600 staff world-wide and combined research spending of around £40m a year.

News of the deal was welcomed by investors, driving Amersham's shares up by 131.5p to an all-time high of f14.82. The closing price values Amersham at £874m.

growth markets such as gecent of its revenues on administration compared to 42 per cent at Amersham. Fears that the UK group

would not win control of the new company proved groundless. Amersham will own 55 per cent and retains full control of the company's board, with Bill Castell, chief executive, appointed as APB's chairman. and Ron Long, managing director of Amersham Life Sciences, becoming chief executive of the new group. As well as the flotation, Amersham has the option to buy out the remaining stake in the company.

£30m in the deal's third year from a 10 per cent cut in the workforce and reduction in operating costs at Pharmacia. He said the deal would be earningsenhancing in its first year.

Analysts were divided about whether the deal would immediately enhance earnings, but said the strategy was right and the scope for cost savings was substantial. Nigel Barnes at Merrill Lynch said the savings would come through the job cuts and improvement in oper-Mr Castell said the deal gave ating margins at Pharmacia. the group critical mass in high-which spends around 57 per

sham announced pre-tax profits up 30 per cent to £66m in the year to the end of March. The increase reflected a sharp rise in healthcare profits as the sale of prostrate cancer products soared. The dividend total is 22p, up 22 per cent.

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US share surge boosts Footsie

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Share prices in London reached a new peak yesterday following an early surge in shares across the Atlantic. Analysts predicted further advances to come now that the FTSE 100 index has passed the latest psychological barrier of 4.700.

It ended nearly 53 points higher at 4.739.6, easily beating the previous all-time high set on 16

In the US, the Dow Jones index was 86 points higher at 7,565 by late morning, following the new records set on Friday and Monday. The Dow has gained more than 1,000 points this year.

By contrast, stock markets in continental Europe were quiet and flat as investors decided to wait and see what becomes of prospects for the single currency as a result of the new hurdles thrown up by the French government this week. Shares in May in post-election euphoria. Paris suffered slightly more,

the CAC 40 index closing 22 points lower at 2,664.18. Paul O'Connor, an equity strategist at BZW, said the biggest reason for London's advance yesterday was the rise in Wall Street. But he added: "A lot of people are rotating out of the

continental European markets. at least in the short term." Wall Street has been boosted by the diminishing fears that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again when it meets in July. In particular,

the increase in non-farm employment last month was, at 138,000, far lower than expected. The figures suggested that the US economy is sustaining its astonishing mix of buoyant growth and low inflation. Although Wall Street was the

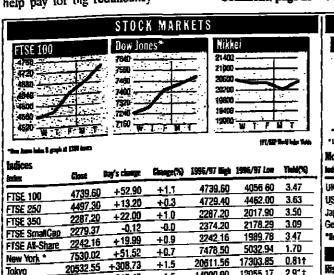
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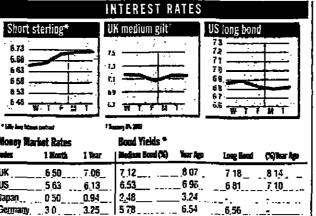
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figures on Friday showed that

main explanation for yesterday's soaring share prices in London, they are also expected to be supported by this year's building society flotations. Market report, page 27





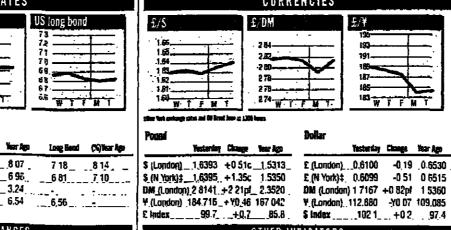
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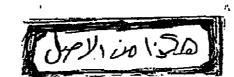
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Scottish Media buys Grampian for £105m

Cathy Newman

Scottish Media Group yesterday announced a £105m deal to buy Grampian Television, heightening expectations that the few remaining independent Channel 3 companies, such as HTV. would be taken over before the end of the year.
Scottish, which offered

Grampian shareholders cash or new Scottish Media shares, will make substantial cost savings. City analysts suggested that up to 50 jobs may go from Grampian's workforce of 200.

Scottish would not confirm the number of redundancies and said the formation of a Scottish Parliament would create job opportunities as the company would set up studios in Edin-

burgh. Calum MacLeod, non-executive chairman of Grampian, and Donald Waters, chief ex-ecutive of Grampian, will join the Scottish board. Mr Waters will continue in his current capacity until his retirement at the end of the year. It is thought he will not be replaced.

Scottish is to transfer all its

programme production to Grampian's Aberdeen studios, a move which will cut overheads by reducing the group's de-pendence on freelance and external facilities.

Andrew Flanagan, managing trector, said the deal would provide advertising synergies between the two companies. He said: "We needed to get together to compete for adver-

tisers on a pan-Scotland basis."

Of the five independently owned Channel 3 broadcasters, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television is likely to be swallowed up by Granada Group after the two confirmed on Monday they were in talks about a merger. A deal is expected in a few weeks.

HTV's share price leapt 10p to 316.5p yesterday on City expectations that United News & Media would launch a bid by the end of the year. According to Henderson Crosthwaite, United, which already has a 29 per cent stake in HTV, would pay around 420p a share for the

company. Lord Hollick's company is forbidden from paying less than that until October, a year after

Central

it upped its stake in HTV at a cost of 420p a share. United may act swiftly to

HTV Group

1993

for too long, they believed it may wait for the Independent Television Commission's decision on prevent other predators taking an interest. Although Carlton Communications would have licence renewal before swooping. HTV pays the Treasury a hefty annual fee of £22m and is difficulty taking control of HTV likely to be granted a reduction while United continues to hold a stake, it has established an which would affect its market ideal platform for a takeover of HTV with its purchase last year

Analysis said a purchase of HTV would leave Border Television as easy prey for either

could not afford to tread water

Mr Flanagan said yesterday Scottish would prefer to expand by acquiring regional newspa-

Scottish or Granada, although

How the ITV map has changed since the last franchises were awarded

Щγ

Independent Charmel 3 companies Scottish Media Group (formarly STV)

] Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television in taks with Granada Group

ne Tees/Yorkshire

Cartion Communications

United News & Media

1997

He said that while Border was "not a perfect bedfellow" and that all ITV companies were "healthily priced", there were significant opportunities in other media markets, and beyond Scotland.

Derek Terrington, media an-

alyst at Teather & Greenwood, said Scottish was playing down talks of expansion within the terrestrial television sector. "Scot-

Tyne Tees/Yorkshire

tish wants to complete the set by buying Border," he said. The Labour MP for Ab-erdeen Central, Frank Doran, yesterday urged Margaret Beck-ett, the President of the Board of Trade, to refer the Scottish deal to the Monopolies & Mergers Commission.

Jarvis in talks to buy third railway group

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Jarvis, the construction group which has seen its shares soar following its move into railway maintenance, said yesterday it was in discussions which may or may not lead to a "substantial" acquisition. Though the com-pany declined to identify its target, City speculation settled on Fastline, another railway maintenance company, as the likely

It would be Jarvis's third railway deal in little more than year. The shares, which rose

five-fold last year, edged an-other 5p higher to 296.5p. With the acquisition tipped to be worth around £60m-£65m it would require a major rights is-sue, possibly of around £40m. Jarvis said it hoped to make an announcement shortly.

Fastline was formed through a management buy-out 15 months ago from the former British Rail business.

Its acquisition by Jarvis would be seen a positive move for the once-struggling construction

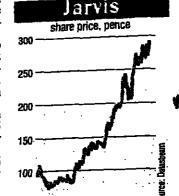
company. Two years ago Jarvis was a struggling loss maker with a share price of just 20p. But its fortunes have been transformed since its £9m acquisition last year of Northern Infrastructure (Nimco), one of seven businesses that carries out maintenance contracts for rail network operator Railtrack. Nimco has sales of around £140m largely generated from guaranteed Railtrack contracts. The other infrastructure maintenance companies have been snapped up by the likes of Balfour

Beatty, Amey and Amec. Last month Jarvis paid £4.9m for a half share in Relayfast, the Scottish rail engineering company. It has the rights to buy the other half for £5m. Jarvis made a loss of almost £5m in 1994 and profits of just £500,000 the following year. In April this year broker Peel Hunt upgraded its profits forecast for the year to

March from £10m to £14.6m.

The transformation has proved a boon for Jarvis shareholders. Last year the company's shares were the second-best performers on the stock market, rising by 506 per cent to 142.5p. The meteoric rise has continued this year, during which time they have already doubled.

The privatisation of British Rail has been fraught with controversy with the government being heavily criticised for selling the various parts too cheap-ly. One of the first examples of this was when Stagecoach, the



JJASO NDJ FMAMJ bus and trains group, paid £825m for Porterbrook, the train leasing company which had been bought by its management from the government for £527m just eight months earlier. That deal provided huge windfall gains for directors and the buy-out's major backers, Charterhouse Bank.

Other deals have also proved

lucrative. Amec paid £25m for the South West infrastructure Maintenance Company. Analysts expect that deal to provide profits of £3m-£4m this year. In April Jarvis said its profits for the 15 months to March would "substantially exceed market expectations" thanks to building project gains and lower-than-expected rationalisation costs. Its projects include a contract to build a school in Dorset under the government's

Severn to continue rebates despite tax threat

Michael Harrison

Severn Trent, the privatised water company, yesterday rejected the option of making householders pay for the windfall tax, saying it remained com-mitted to "benefit sharing" between customers and shareholderş.

The company pledged to continue with its five-year programme of rebates, worth £6.50 a year, irrespective of the levy to be imposed by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, in his first Budget next month.

At the same time, Severn Trent said it intended to increase the payout to shareholders by reducing dividend cover to two times earnings. It also con-firmed it would seek authority at its annual meeting next month to complete the buyback of 10 per cent of its shares, having repurchased 5.6 per cent of its share capital last December.

owner of Welsh Water and South Wales Electricity, said it might have to scrap customer rebates and discretionary crease in the dividend for the spending on its network if the

of Westcountry Television.

While analysts said United

windfall tax was too high. However, Vic Cocker, chief executive of Severn, said yesterday it remained firmly committed to benefit sharing. believing this was in the best interests of shareholders

He was speaking as Severn

pre-tax profits before exceptional charges last year to £391m and a 13 per cent inyear to 36.5p. The group also disclosed it had reduced its leakage rates by a third to 16 per cent a year, ahead of the

dustry regulator, Ofwat.

timetable agreed with the in-

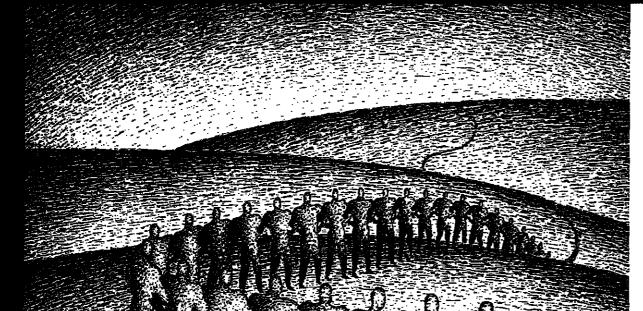
Earlier this week, Hyder, the announced a 5 per cent rise in sewage business, where the water of Welsh Water and pre-tax profits before excepin the year, and £4.5m of costs incurred through Severn's failed bid for South West Water.

The company said capital investment, at £412m, had exceeded after-tax profits from its regulated business by £95.6m while its unregulated businesses, principally the Biffa waste di-Exceptional charges included £20m in redundancy costs at the main regulated water and

creased water loss through evaporation caused by climatic changes, Severn was confident t would not have to impose restrictions on water supply.

Despite a lack of rain and in-

Following the blocking of its bid for South West Water by the Monopolies & Mergers Commission, Severn said it intended to concentrate on a combination of organic growth and small to medium-sized acauisitions.



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The previous

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extraordinary turn of

industry seven years

events when it

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however, the logic

of its free-for-all

mergers policy

Americans plug into our electricity industry

part of the CEGB seems to have changed hands more times over the last seven years than a ten dollar bill. Regulators and agreement on price allowing, it's now about to change hands again and with it goes most of Britain's remaining hope of building up its own in the price of building up its own international force in electricity supply. John Devancy is one of the more impressive chief executives operating in this now highly fragmented industry and while no doubt an important role will be found for him in PacifiCorp, he will in future be working

for an American company, lan Lang's decision last year to prevent the two generators, PowerGen and National Power, from buying regional electricity companies (RECs) left the door wide open to US utility groups. The £1.5bn bid for Yorkshire Electricity, the last before the election, has left just Southern Electric as the only included the control of the independently quoted REC. If Pacific Corp does buy Energy Group it will put an astonishing 8 RECs in American hands. For the record the other 7 are; Yorkshire, London, East Midlands, Northern, Midlands, Secboard, and Sweb. Of the remainder, two have been bought by water companies -Swalec, and Norweb - and a third by

The previous government surely did not foresee this extraordinary turn of events when it privatised the industry seven years

to adopt the same stance. Certainly what it said in Opposition would lead you to the view that PacifiCorp can expect a reference to the

المذا مزالاما

Monopolies and Mergers Commission.
Since then Margaret Beckett has said that competition concerns will continue to be the deciding factor in mergers policy and on that hasis it is hard to see any good reason for stopping the Americans. The MMC would not have an easy time finding one. Nonethe-less, it is sad to reflect on the fact that our only remaining standard bearers as mainland Europe begins the process of deregulating energy supply, look destined to be the two generators. National Power and PowerGen. No disrespect meant to them, but what chance do they stand against the giant European monoliths and the increasingly aggressive Americans?

Bell tolls for ITV ... but not just yet

With everyone's sights firmly focused on the brave new world of digital TV, interactive TV and pay per view, it's a won-der that anyone can still summon up any interest at all in the boring old business of analogue TV franchises. For a very sizeable proportion of the population, however, analogue will remain the only method of TV | of Grampian establishes a not inconsider- troversy, there has always been a reasonable

they've got a good 10 years of revenue earning ability left in them yet. The latest round of consolidation might further extend their life expectancy by allowing a more co-ordinated approach to competing with the BBC, satellite, cable and digital terrestrial.

Not that the three emergent winners in this market place - Michael Green, Lord Hollick and Gerry Robinson - make easy bed fellows. What co-operation they do manage to achieve is largely of the reluctant and forced variety. Even so, three powerful egos is an easier number to sit round a table than 10 and a more co-ordinated approach to scheduling begins to look that much more

Lord Hollick's acquisition of HTV would represent the final piece of the jigsaw under present media ownership rules to fall into place. Whether he's prepared to pay the price is another thing, but he must draw some comfort from the game Granada has played over Yorkshire Tyne Tees. Yorkshire once claimed it was worth £17 a share. Last March Granada said it was not prepared to bid at the then price of £12.80. Now it looks

set to clinch the company at just £11.75. With Mirror Group declared offside by the current cross-media ownership rules, Scottish is free to plough its own independent furrow north of the border. Its takeover

ago. That was, however, the logic of its free for all mergers policy. The big question for the EFGR sound to the CFGR sound to the CFGR sound to the markets now is whether Labour is going of the CFGR sound to the markets now is whether Labour is going to the complete the markets now is whether Labour is going to the complete the markets now is whether Labour is going to the licence to print money they once were. that do not. By then the digital age will be well established and these franchises will be very much a wasting asset.

National Grid verdict will not end the story

Mr Justice Robert Walker has finally de-livered his verdict on whether the electricity industry - specifically National Power and the National Grid - misused nearly £1bn of its pensions surplus, and rather surprisingly he has come down in favour of the compa-nies. It is hard to see the matter resting there, however. For one thing, the pensioners have already had a favourable ruling from the Pensions Ombudsman, and although he's now being told he's wrong in law, the pensioners will continue to hold the moral high ground, believing that right is on their side. And for another, this is not a particularly good judgment. The judge rehearses the arguments well enough, but he fails adequately to explain why he's opted for one side over the other.

The argument hinged on whether the terms of the pension schemes allowed the companies to use the accumulated surplus for their own purposes, or most of it anyway. Most occupational pension schemes do. and while this invariably gives rise to con-

underlying case for it. After all, in most occu-pational schemes it is the employer which makes the bigger contribution to the fund, so by rights he should therefore be entitled to at least a share of any surplus.

However, with these schemes the wording seems specifically to require that the surplus is used for the benefit of employees. Moreover, both National Power and the National Grid implicitly acknowledged that there were limits on the way they could use the surplus by tying it directly to the funding of redundancies, thus enabling them to claim that the money was a "benefit" to employees.

Aggrieved pensioners will certainly want 10 appeal and it seems right that they should be given that chance. Admittedly the surplus was used to fund very generous redundancy terms which might not otherwise have been available, thereby reducing the pain of the downsizing process, but it is hard to see how redundancy costs are anything other than an employers' liability.

Whether pensioners do take the case to the Court of Appendiction that the case to the case to

the Court of Appeal rather depends on the trustees, who have so far been funding their legal costs. Both at the National Grid and National Power there is an unsurprising reluctance to see the case proceed any further. But woe betide them if they get caught putting pressure on the trustees to end the campaigners' funding. That would make a mockery of all those post Maxwell changes in the law to give pension funds more inde-pendence from their corporate masters.

Unemployment figures 'not a big threat to inflation's

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Fears that falling unemployment will fuel higher wages and inflation are wildly exaggerated, according to a new report.

With new figures today expected to show a further big decline in headline unemployment last month, the report claims the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has distorted the official figures so much that they are an unreliable guide to the state of the labour market. According to Edmund Nunis, an economist at Nikko Europe, the threat of inflation posed by falling unemployment is far less than widely feared.

Since its introduction last October the JSA has distorted the headline figures, which simply record the number of people claiming unemployment benefit. The Office for National Statistics is reviewing the possibility of replacing this unsatisfactory measure with a monthly survey, an option rejected last year by the Conser-

vative government. Most economists have reckoned the JSA has cut the total are expected to show it reby about 10,000-15,000 a month, which would mean the underlying level of joblessness is still falling very rapidly.

But the Nikko paper claims that half of the 420,000 decline in the number of claimants between October and April has been due to the introduction of the JSA. This estimate, based on unemployment figures from the more reliable Labour Force Survey available up to February, is twice as big as the accepted size of the JSA distortion.

wage of those entering fulltime jobs from unemployment is £11.500 🤊

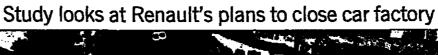
It runs counter to the consensus among City economists, many of whom believe the jobs market is already starting to overheat. They point to the steady climb in average earnings growth, although today's figures maining at 4.5 per cent in April. However, Mr Nonis concludes that the pick-up in the number of people leaving the

unemployment register is almost entirely due to the removal of fraudulent claimants. It does not, he argues, reflect any underly-

ing change in the jobs market. The report goes on to argue that adding in people who are so discouraged they have stopped trying to find work could add another 2.5 million to the unemployment total, suggesting a "true" unemployment rate of more like 16 per cent of the workforce rather than the official 5.9 per cent. The inflationary impact of

falling unemployment will also. be limited to the extent that new jobs are part-time, short-term and low-paid. Mr Nonis esti-mates the average wage of those entering full-time jobs from un employment is £11,500 a year, two-thirds the national average. He adds that withdrawing benefit for fraudulent claimants

gaining income by finding work. The report concludes: "There is no doubt that as the labour market continues to strengthen. inflationary pressures will begin to emerge in certain areas due to skill shortages. But these will be limited by the untapped pool of unemployed that exists in the UK."





Demonstrators at the Renault factory in Vilvoorde in Belgium received welcome news from the French car maker's annual meeting yesterday. Its board announced the appointment of a study to explore alternatives to the plans to close the site and cut 3,100 jobs. The workers also

received the support of French junior Industry minister Christian Pierret, who said the government was happy there would be an objective study of Renault's plans. "We're not certain that what was announced a few weeks back by the company is essential," Mr Pierret said.

fashion stores. Those costs

pushed the company into a

Other problems in the busi-

ness have included weather re-

lated trading difficulties and a

weak South African economy

which had damaged sales

likely bidder for Gent had also mentioned Claremont Garments, another M&S

Gent shareholders were ask-

ing for a substantial premium

to the market price due to its

valuable contracts with M&S,

City speculation on the

f4m loss that year

there.

IN BRIEF

Inflation increases in Germany

Consumer prices in Germany rose by 0.4 per cent in May due to higher prices for food and energy. The annual inflation rate climbed to 1.6 per cent, reversing the declines of the previous two months. Inflation in other goods edged higher too, but in services declined. The weakness of the mark has driven import prices higher, but wage costs have been extremely subdued. Most analysis think the headline inflation rate will remain very low, leaving the prospect of an increase in German interest rates very distant.

Separate figures suggested that manufacturing activity in Europe is poised to pick up. The EU-wide survey of business confidence showed an improvement in order books, and expected production remaining well above last year's doldrums. The current levels of business expectations are the highest since mid-1994.

Lord Harris's son on Carpetright board

Martin Harris, the 28-year-old son of Lord Harris of Peckham, has been appointed to the main board of Carpetright, his father's retail empire. Mr Harris junior has been moved up from marketing manager and will take his seat on the board next week. Educated at Curry University in Boston, he was a director of Harvey's Furnishings, another Harris business, for three years before joining Carpetright in 1991. He has gradually been groomed for promotion and has been introduced to analysts and the press at recent City presentations.

Lord Harris was not available yesterday to answer any charges of nepotism. However, John Kitching, sales director, said: Martin was largely responsible for the successful development of our new Carpet Depot format and his marketing flair will provide a valuable contribution to the future growth of the company."

Boeing strikes deal with Continental

Continental has become the third US carrier to name Boeing as its sole supplier of jets over the next 20 years following similar moves by American Airlines and Delta Air Lines. The company intends to buy 35 wide-body aircraft from Boeing, consisting of five 777-200 and 30 767-400ER planes. There are options for further purchases in the future. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Separately, American Airlines confirmed an order of seven Boeing 777-200IGW aircraft to be delivered in early 1999 and 2000.

Salvesen shake-up 'has cost £200m'

Sir Gerald Elliot, the former chairman of the Christian Salvesen transport group, yesterday claimed that the current management's reconstruction proposals had so far cost shareholders around £200m. Earlier this year Sir Gerald led a shareholder revolt against plans to pay back £150m to shareholders and demerge the Aggreko generator hire operation. Speaking after Salvesen, led by chief executive Chris Masters, had addressed Scottish shareholders in Edinburgh yesterday, Sir Gerald backed up his latest claim by pointing to the collapse in the share price from around 325p to the current 240p, up 3.5p yesterday. "It shows that the belief that the demerger and paying back capital will unlock shareholder value has had exactly the opposite effect", he said.

Further round of provisions at Babcock

Babcock, the dockyard operator to engineering group which has been restructuring for at least five years, announced a new round of provisions totalling £25.6m. The decision to take a £23.7m charge to write off its investment in a Texas development project to process dust from electric arc furnaces was the main factor plunging the group to a £22m loss for the year to March, against profits of £3.1m before. The group is also talking to two buyers over a possible sale of the process division, which designs targe-scale plants for the oil, gas and petrochemicals industries. Separately, Babcock said it would scale back its loss-making construction activities in South Africa. John Parker, chairman, said this would be his "final rationalisation of the portfolio." In line with the cut in the interim dividend, the final payment is halved to 0.875p, making 1.5p

Adtranz wins £17m train order from Prism

Prism Rail said contracts had been exchanged and firm orders placed with Adtranz, a joint venture between ABB Asea Brown Boveri and Daimler-Benz, for a £17m order for 44 four-car trains. The trains, which are all for Prism Rail's wholly-owned subsidiary LTS Rail, are to be made and maintained by Adtranz, they will be supplied on lease to LTS by Porterbrook Leasing Company for the remaining period of the franchise which is due to expire in April 2011. Lease rentals and maintenance charges have been fixed and will amount to £18.5m per annum, including interest fixing costs, once all the trains are in service.

Finance director resigns at BTP

Shares in BTP, the fine chemicals group, jumped 22p to 290p after it announced the appointment of Ken Greatbatch, formerly of Laporte, as finance director. Stephen Hannam, chief executive. said the resignation of Rob Martin, who had been finance director for 10 years, was by mutual agreement. He said BTP had reached a point where it needed a broad and global strategic outlook and a different style. The news came as BTP reported full-year profits up 8 per cent to £48m on sales 3 per cent ahead. Robyn Coombs at house broker Merrill Lynch was positive: "People have woken up to the fact that 60 per cent of BTP's profits is high-margin pharmaceutical and agrochemical intermediates.

Rush to beat Norwich Union deadline

Norwich Union members were queueing yesterday to beat the deadline to register for extra shares above and beyond the free shares they have already been allocated. The high level of interest means the shares are likely to start trading at well above the initial estimates of between 240p and 290p on which a 25p discount for members was based. IG Index, the City bookmaker, was yesterday quoting a spread of £3.37-£3.47, a level that would see Northe year, with most in the last | wich float with a market value of almost £1bn more than original estimates of £5.6bn.

Dai-Ichi board resigns over loans scandal

A mass resignation of main board directors was announced yesterday by Dai-Ichi Kangyo, the third-largest bank in Japan and the fifth-biggest in the world, over the scandal involving £63m of loans made to Ryuichi Koike, an alleged corporate racketeer.

The resignations came as Tokyo police arrested four former Dai-Ichi Kangyo executives, bringing to eight the number of former and current employees who have been arrested in connection with the loans. According to reports in

Japan, the arrests involved two former vice-presidents and two former lower-ranking bank executives. The reports said one of those apprehended was Kenji Tanaka, now president of Jusco, a supermarket chain. Mr Tanaka was a managing

director at Dai-Ichi Kangyo from 1992 to 1995 when he headed the general affairs department. The other three arrested were reportedly Akira Kanazawa, a former vice-president of the bank, Tsuneo Uchida, a former vice-president, and Yasuyuki Terasawa, a former managing director who was responsible for screening loans. The board of Dai-Ichi

Kangyo is the second corporate board to resign en masse because of the scandal since 15 top-ranking executives of Nomura Securities stepped down

President Katsuhiko Kondo, 59, and Tadashi Okuda, the 65-year-old chairman who last month said they would step

down and stay on the board as advisers, will resign altogether from Dai-Ichi. The two vicepresidents who were to replace them, Ichiro Fujita, 58, and Yoshiharu Mani, 60, will also resign. Between April 1995 and March 1996, Mr Fujita was in charge of loan screening, an op-eration police are investigating for connections to Mr Koike.

Katsuyuki Sugita, 54, will take over as the bank's president at the annual shareholders' meeting on 27 June, when the current president and seven other top-ranking executives formally step down to take responsibility for the scandal.

Another 16 employees, including branch managers, department chiefs and auditors. also would resign, the bank

The bank said the new board of directors would be made up of Mr Sugita and 15 other junior executives. The bank has not yet appointed a new chairman. Those selected "were found not to be involved in the current scandal by an internal investigation," Mr Sugita said

"Any change of leadership would be good for the bank at this point, said Nozomu Kunishige, an analyst at Lehman Brothers Japan. "They need people without the taint of the

scandal." The executives below board level who resigned were asked to do so because the internal investigation found evidence that loans may have been made to Mr Koike, said Mr Sugita.

Indonesian group buys SR Gent

SR Gent, the struggling Marks & Spencer supplier, has been acquired by Indonesian-based group Prospero Investments. The company has been in bid talks since last October.

Prospero is offering 82p per share in cash for the company, valuing it at £30.6m. Peter Wolff and Peter Wetzel, SR Gent's founders who own 62 per cent of the shares between, them have agreed to the deal, which values their combined holdings at £18.4m. The shares closed 8p higher at 79.5p. They stood at more than 100p two years ago. Prospero, which is con-trolled by the Indonesian en-

Magnus Grimond

Budget next month.

Sir David Alliance, chairman of

the N Brown catalogue retail-

ing group and one of Britain's

richest men, yesterday raised

£50.8m from a share sale to

move funds offshore to beat the

new Labour Government's first

David and his brother Nigel, an-

other N Brown board member,

sold 12.7 million shares at 400p

yesterday, taking the family holding below 50 per cent for

the first time since the Man-

chester-based group floated in

1970. The disposal reduces the

family-controlled stake from

57.3 per cent to 48.6 per cent.

Pamily trusts controlled by Sir

vasan, plans to review Gent's manufacturing and stock control processes. However, it says it is committed to Britain as a base for quality manufac-

ladieswear such as blouses, dresses and skirts. This business accounts for 90 per cent of the company's sales.

The deal marks the end of sorry period for SR Gent. In October it announced that it was in crisis talks with its bankers and that it had received at least two takeover ap-

That announcement delayed publication of the company's full year results. They were an-

N Brown chief raises

£50m in share sale

trepreneur Marimutu Sininounced in November showing it took a £7m provision to an £11m loss caused by £16m pull out of the Susan Woolf of exceptional costs for the closure of the Clothing Barn shops. In April it announced interim losses of just under £1m compared with profits of

SR Gent supplies M&S with £2.8m last time The shares have been hit hard. In September the company's shares plunged by 41 per cent when it revealed the cost of the Clothing Barn closure. There were seven stores at the group's factories which

> sales and poor margins. That withdrawal was the second time SR Gent had been forced into a retreat

sold surplus factory stock. The shops had been hit by weak thought to be worth £150m a

from the high street. In 1994

Computer float could leave chief worth £42m

Stock Exchange: "The reduction in the Alliance Trust Holdings will increase the liquidity in the puter manufacturer Akhter, company's shares and broaden will be worth up to £42m when the group floats on the London its register." While the free float of shares Stock Exchange this summer.

in the company has always been tight, it is understood that Sir David has decided to broaden his investment portfolio in anticipation of concerns surrounding the Budget on 2 July. It is thought that he will use the money raised to push more of his assets offshore to beat Labour's plans. Analysis are expecting the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to cut advance corporation tax which could

Yesterday's sale, carried out Explaining the move, Jim by brokers UBS and Barclays Martin, the group's chief executive, said in a statement to the just 1p down at 413.5p.

hit the value of shares.

Humayan Mughal, managing finished computers and then director of the specialist comcount."

Harlow-based Akhter, which is raising £20m in a piacing, will be valued at £60m, writes Sameena Ahmad. Mr Mughal, who with his wife founded the company in 1979, will have his sharehold-

ing diluted to around 70 per cent after the float from 83 per Though almost two-thirds of the group's business is man-

ufactoring personal computers, Mr Mughal said it was not affected by slowing demand for PCs: "We make very specialised systems exactly to customers' requirements. We don't stock

have to sell them off at a dis-

Akhter is also developing a higher-margin consultancy and services business. This year the group made £5m of profits before exceptional items on £36m of sales, just 3 per cent up en 1996. More than half of Akhter's

business comes from central government and the Ministry of Defence, for which it makes portable bard drives which can be removed from computers for security purposes over 25,000 times without wearing out.

The heavy dependence on government work means that around 75 per cent of Akhter's sales come in the second half of two months.

Milk sours Northern's efforts

flattering sequence of events for Northern Foods, the dairy and prepared foods group. While its rival's shares have motored on relentlessly the shares trade on a forward rating of on turnover up 55 per cent to £552m. over the last five years, Northern's have performed poorly, falling from 314p in 1992 to a five-year low of 166p three vears later. Yesterday's 6.5p rise still only took them back to 206.5p.

The principal problem is that while Unigate has been selling businesses, generating cash and developing powerful operations in other food sectors such as pork processing. Northern has been weighed down by the unfortunately timed acquisition of Express Dairies and Eden Vale five years ago. As the chart shows, the proportion of people who buy all their milk from the milkman has been declining remorselessly as the public prefers instead to

buy cheaper milk at supermarkets. But while it may be too early to call the turn in Northern's fortunes, yesterday's presentation was the most positive for some time. Analysts believe a genuine recovery is now possible.

Pre-tax profits for the year to 31 March were 7 per cent ahead at £128m, in line with expectations. And as usual it was a tale of two halves. The prepared foods side of the business, which supplies ready-made meals and the like to stores, continued to prosper, Sales to M&S and the four big supermarkets were 8 per cent ahead and margins improved. Northern is investing £57m in its prepared foods business this year as it aligns itself increasingly with its big five customers, who now account for 60 per cent of its prepared foods sales. Profits and margins were well ahead last year and the impact of BSE, which knocked £3m off the halfyear profits, is gradually fading

But the good work in prepared foods was dissipated by the disappointing dairy operation. Here there was a savage £17m hit due to lower commodity prices on milk powder and butter fat. With the supermarkets using their buying muscle to squeeze supplier prices, milk margins are at their lowest point for a decade. However, Northem is becoming more choosy about its retail customers and is reducing its commitment to second-line stores such as Kwik Save, Iceland and Somerfield.

On the doorstep, milk deliveries continue to decline and were 8 per cent lower at the year-end than 12 months previously. The more encouraging news is that the rate of decline is slowing. Northern also managed to push through a penny-a-pint price increase.

Like Unigate, Northern expects

more consolidation in the milk market, which should benefit the main players. So, with rationalisation seemingly gathering pace and Milk Marque taking a more realistic view on raw milk prices, Northern's fortunes should improve. On current year forecasts of £140m.

eporting its results a day after Unigate has not proved a very THE INVESTMENT COLUMN authorities match spending by bus companies on upgraded facilities,

the year, which included London bus

operator Centre West, Greater Man-

chester Buses and Strathclyde Buses,

chipped in £15.8m to operating prof-

this year, but FirstBus reckons it can

only buy another £200m of bus

turnover before rubbing up against the 25 per cent limit traditionally deemed

the ceiling by the monopolies

growth to squeeze out yet, given the

cost-cutting potential. FirstBus hit its

15 per cent overall margin target for

the bus business this year, but sever-

The question, even with the decline in passenger numbers being stabilised,

is whether this year's record £86m cap-

ital expenditure can generate real top-

line growth. Labour's pro-bus

transport policy and the advent of

"quality partnerships", whereby local

1996

119.8

14.98.

1997

16.13

Buy With

Confidence

From Time

growth over the next few years.

However, annualised sales are already running at £750m and there should be at least a couple of years'

Rail will be 10 per cent of profits

its up from £35.1m to £61m.

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Northern Foods: At a glance

Market value: £1.19bn, share price 206.5p

1994

20.51

pence

320

300

280

260

Share price

1995

8.8

1993

just under 12. Dairy companies are not The £216m of acquisitions during going to achieve a premium rating until the milk industry shake-out makes more progress. Still, the shares are worth holding.

FirstBus makes good headway

irstBus, the product of the authorities. merger of bus groups at oppo-site ends of the UK in Bristol and Aberdeen, looked a bit of an ugly duckling when it was hatched three years ago, But Britain's biggest bus operator has grown into something of a swan, outperforming the rest of stock market by nearly 14 per cent, even with the shares, up 14p at 217.5p, well down on their high of 243.5 in February.

al individual companies are still lagging, and the company is expecting at least 5 per cent annual profits

The question remains to what extent FirstBus and its peers can sustain the acquisition-led growth which has fuelled the heady expansion of the industry. The latest figures show acquisitions were firmly in the driving seat in the year to March, with pretax profits soaring 132 per cent to £51m

Five-year record

Pre-tax profits (£m)

Dividends per share (p)

Milk purchasers buying from

milkman only, in last seven days, %

augurs well.

FirstBus may have to be a bit more adventurous in looking overseas for purchases if it is not to become an income stock by early next century. Even so, profits of £78m this year, putting the group on a forward multiple of 12, suggests the shares are still reasonable value.

Macdonald has room for growth

eservations about the lacklustre regional hotel sector have tainted sentiment surrounding Macdonald Hotels, the Scottishbased group which floated at 145p in March last year. The group's shares hit a 231p high in February before falling to 167p, prompted in part by the house broker Cazenove downgrading full-year forecasts.

But the first full-year results yesterday helped restore some faith in the group. Operating profit for the year to March grew 26 per cent to £10m, on turnover ahead 26 per cent to £41m. Macdonald's shares closed

9p higher to 176.5p.

The group's strength is its ability to spot hotels with development potential. It looks for three or four-star hotels with plenty of undeveloped land, buys them cheap and adds rooms. With costly facilities like restaurants, car parks and lobbies already in place, the group can make a staggering 20 per cent return on capital on extensions, compared with around 12 per cent for a new hotel.

The group says that even without acquisitions, the development potential of its existing hotels would allow it to increase its bedroom capacity by over 50 per cent. Macdonald has also proven it is a keen bargain hunter, buy-ing new hotels at around £33,000 per room, roughly half the going rate.

The group bought five in the year, raising its room stock to 1,420, and with £13.2m of development and refurbishment, it spent almost £20m in the year. Despite that, the balance sheet looks healthy. Over half the group's capital spending costs were financed by £11m of operating cash flow and although gearing is 37 per cent, interest is covered 9.5 times by operating profit.

The group has also protected itself against a hike in interest rates over the next five years by capping £25m of bor-

rowings at 9 per cent interest.
Paul Heath at UBS has increased his profit forecast from £9.2m to £10.5m. On a forward p/e ratio of 13, the shares stand at an 8 per cent discount to the hotels sector. They deserve better. Good value.

A rattling good read, by the sound of it

The audio book market has come a long way in a short time since it started putting books on tape to help blind, elderly and very young people. It now offers a wide range of CD alternatives to the printed word, including poetry, sporting publications, Jilly Cooper romances and the James Bond books, all of which clearly benefit from the spoken word.

Turnover is set to top £100m by the end of the century. Publishers and book retailers still tend to think of audio books as poor relations, however, which gives specialists such as ABM a chance to develop their own-label products as well as supply big retail chains such as Virgin/Our Price, Waterstones, Dillons and HMV with a range of products.

John Cooper, the 51-year-old managing director of ABM, has spent his entire career in the record and music industry, but he is nothing if not versatile. He started off at Transatlantic Records before joining EMI as general marketing manager. Via Motown Records he joined a company responsible for producing the Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra in association with Anglia TV. He helped found Posh Entertainment which launched the Mills & Boon "Romance on Tape" label and sold 700,000 copies.

ABM is now raising £1.5m to finance further expansion in this very fragmented market. Next step is a listing on Ofex, the bottom rung on the Stock Exchange ladder.

Christopher Haskins, the ebullient Northern Foods chairman, was mystified at the huge number of analysts who turned up at his company's results meetings yesterday. The bumper turnout - more than 50 made the trip - was especially surprising given the relatively sparse City presence at Unigate's meeting only the day before.

"It's the goodie bag," admitted one food analyst who preferred not to be named. He may well be right. Northern Foods regularly supplies analysts (and journalists) who attend its meetings with little bags of biscuits and cakes which it makes for the likes of Marks & Spencer. Unigate does not.

Pen Kent was well known to a generation of business journalists as the press spokesman for the Bank of England before he was diverted to more serious challenges such as head of the international division and associate director for finance and industry, which is Bank-speak for the man responsible for letting down gently such financial disasters as Eurotunnel and Canary Wharf project. He became an executive director in 1994

and was responsible for Crestco, the settlement system which replaced the ill-fated Talisman. He has now retired and is being put out to grass at NatWest Bank, where he becomes one of 17 members on the full-time board from September 1. He will also be a member of the board of Nat West Markets and the audit and compliance committee.

He admits to being able and willing to deliver lectures in both French and German, although he prefers to negotiate in English. His interests include art, jazz and walking, and he is chairman of the trustees of Blind in Business and vice-patron of the Missing

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



which supplies the big retail chains

Persons Helpline. He is married to the former Jill George but he assures me she is no relation to the present Governor.

Books on the decline and fall of the Tory government are starting to spring up like mushrooms on a summer morning. The latest project, provisionally entitled Collapse of Stout Party. is a joint venture between Morrison Halcrow a former assistant editor of the Daily Telegraph who is now a consultant with Shandwick, the public relations empire, and retired Tory MP Sir Julian Critchley. Mr Halcrow is looking back at events since sterling fell out of the ERM. Sir Julian is covering the election campaign and the election of the new Conservative leader, and they hope to hit the bookstalls well in time for the Tory conference in October. Sir Julian is rooting for Kenneth Clarke as a one-nation Tory, but thinks Peter Lilley could snatch victory in a third ballot.

233 153

Breweren 32 4 77.

Among Kenneth Clarke's most enthusiastic backers are the members of classic car clubs who were given an unexpected windfall 18 months ago when the then Chancellor stood on its head a long-standing Treasury plan to make classic car owners tax their cars whether they were on the road or not. Since January last year the 160,000 cars that are still roadworthy after 25 years can be licensed free of charge.

Many owners initially suspected this would

result in them being restricted to limited mileages, but so far the gift horse has withstood scrutiny. They now face an anxious wait until Gordon Brown has sat down on July l just in case he tries to reverse the concession. If so, I hope he feels the lash of Mr Clarke's tongue.

Clifford German

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IN BRIEF

Cortecs blood test approved in Japan

Cortecs International said its HelisalTM Rapid Blood was the first whole blood Helicobacter pylori rapid point-of-care test to be approved by the Japanese regulatory authority for distribu-tion in Japan. HelisalTM Rapid Blood is a rapid doctor's office test for the detection of antibodies against the H.pylori bacterium which is the major cause of duodenal and gastric ulcers. The HelisalTM Rapid Blood test is licensed to Zenyaku Kogyo, which obtained the regulatory approval.

Yates to open 18 more Wine Lodges

Yates Brothers Wine Lodges boosted full-year pre-tax profits from £7.47m to £10.51m and Gerry McLeod, chairman, said: "We are confident that the results for the year and beyond will show continuing progress across the group." The chairman stressed that the company's key strategy remained to grow organically and at an increased rate. He said 25 openings were planned for 1997/98, of which 18 would be branches of Yates's Wine Lodges. Earnings per share for the year to 30 March climbed from 14p to 21.5p, and the total dividend was lifted from 3.6p to 4.32p through a 2.88p final payment.

Marshalls to reduce operations in US

Marshalls, the maker of building materials and tools, saw pre-tax profits drop from £25.84m to £19.51m in the year to 31 March and held the dividend total at 5.2p. Andrew Marshall, chairman, said: "After a strategic review of the future of the US operations, it has been decided to seek alternative ways of reducing the involvement, preferably by way of an exchange of assets." He said the group results reflected difficult trading conditions in the second half, particularly for concrete products. "Whilst the industry struggles with overcapacity and low margins it seems that economic conditions are gradually improving and this should show itself in future operating results," he said.

Anglian Group makes a good recovery

A recovery in annual pre-tax profits from £4.38m to £20.18m at Anglian Group, the replacement windows business, was accompanied by a partial restoration in the dividend total from 7.5p to 9p. The dividend last year was cut from 10.3p when profits came out well short of the £21.1m made in 1994/95. The company's chief executive, Eddie Boss, said the introduction of a specialist sales force in the retail home improvements market would help it continue its progress in the current year.

Profits fall at Charles Stanley

A fall in full-year pre-tax profits from £2.53m to £2.07m was reported by Charles Stanley, the stockbroking, corporate finance and investment management group. In a statement, the company said: "It is difficult, as always, to predict the outcome for the full year, but we nevertheless look ahead with optimism." Earnings per share fell from 17.18p to 13.64p. Final dividend is 0.25p.

Whitehead Mann upbeat on prospects

An increase in annual taxable profits from £1.19m to £1.95m at Whitehead Mann was accompanied by an upbeat statement on prospects by the business trading group's chairman. Sir Peter Parker said: "Irading during the first two mouths of the new financial year has been strong, with further growth across the group." The final dividend is 1.6p.

Scottish Highland makes £749,000

Record profits of £749,000 were made by Scottish Highland Hotels in the half year to end April. The result compared with £275,000 made in the same period last year. Hamish Grossart, chairman, said: "Forward bookings for the second half are very encouraging and we expect a strong performance for the year." The room rate rose 5.7 per cent to £46.41 in the six months to April.

Great Portland hints it may cut dividend

Magnus Grimond

Great Portland Estates, the property group, warned yes-terday it might be forced to revisit its high dividend policy if Labour reduced advance corporation tax as expected in next month's Budget. Analysts said Great Portland was effectively saying it might have to cut the payment, which represents most of the group's earnings, if it became less tax efficient due to a reduction in the 20 per cent

rate of ACT. Richard Peskin, the company's chairman, said he was waiting to see the Government's review of corporate taxation but "should substantive measures be taken to alter the current relationship between the levels of corporation tax and tax credit on dividends, your board may find it appropriate to reconsider its existing divi-

dend policy".

Mr Peskin refused to confirm that Great Portland was threatening to cut the payment to sbareholders.

But he said the group's ef-

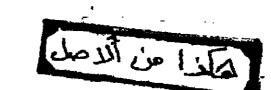
per cent, while ACT was 20 per cent. "If that relationship were to be substantially changed, I am sure that the board would look at what was in the best interests of shareholders in terms of our dividend policy," he said.

Nan Rogers, an analyst with brokers Charterhouse Tilney, said Great Portland was flagging that it might cut its dividend. That would be a radical change for a company that has in the past been seen as an "income stock", she suggested. Great Portland, which raised

£97m from shareholders in February, yesterday announced a final dividend of 6.1p to maintain the annual total at 9.0p. This represented most of last year's earnings per share of 10p, which rose 5 per cent in the year to March, despite a dip in pretax profits from £47.6m to

£46.0m announced yesterday. The group announced an 8 er cent rise in net assets per share to 212p, with the growth coming from the rights cash, a £55m revaluation of investment properties and retained reserves and other equity issues

fective rate of taxation was 25 totalling £4m.				
	Compa	ny Resu	lts	
	Tormover 5	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Amersham (F)	426m (351m)	65.8m (50.8m)	83.8 ₀ (52.2 ₀)	220
Anglias Group (F)	225.4m (214m)	20.18m (4.38m)	15.5p (3.2p)	9.0p (7.5p)
Bahcock Intel (F)	646m (723.4m)	-22m (2.1m)	-14.71p (0.47p)	1.5p (3.0p)
British Theraton (F)	5 81m (9.72m)	-687.000 (-7.13m)	-Z6p (-42.9p)	pi
BSS Greep (F)	333.2m (316.8m)	12.53m (15.08m)	30.2p (37.7p)	26.5p (20.5p)
BIP (F)	404.5m (392.1m)	48 2m (37.6m)	20.25p (18.93p)	11.750 (11.20)
Charles Stanley (km) (F)		2.07m (2.53m)	13.64p (17.18p)	3.82p
Daveopert Kaltwear (F)	11 42m (10.17m)	2.45m (1.85m)	85.3g (77.5g)	9.85p (9.5p)
Des Valley Group (F) Drumment Group (F)	13.29m (11.8m)	4.56m (5.8m)	30.5p (40.32p)	18p (14.5p)
Protect (F)	56.7m (46.4m)	1.5m (1.2m)	5.17p (4.0p)	2.0p (1.5p)
Cook Doub	551.5m (356 3m)	5tm (22m)	16p (7p)	5.50
Great Portland Est (F)	- (-)	46m (47.6m)	10.4p (10.6p)	9p (9p)
Hicking Pantaces! (F)	98.5m (85.9m)	5.43m (6.4m)	23.2p (20.3p)	7.40
Leeds Group (1)	41.95m (31.23m)	5.03m (3.27m)	8.7p (7.4p)	2.4µ (2.3p)
Macdonald Hotels (F)	40.93m (32.55m)	9.16m (4.78m)	12.01p (8.67p)	4.5p (nll)
Marshells (F)	233.2m (237.4m)	19.51m (25.84m)	7.85p (11.83p)	520 (520)
Matrix Healthcare (1)	767.000 (457,000)	83.000 (74.000)	2.8p (7.1p)	3.00 (3.750)
Herthern Foods (F)	1.88bn (1.96bn)	128.3m (119.8m)	16,13p (14,98p)	9.40
Scottish Highland (I)	7.38m (7.28m)	749.000 (275,000)	10,10p (1 1-17F)	120
Severa Trent (F)	1.21bn (1.16bn)	367m (373m)	2.6p (2.0p) 87.2p (89.6p)	32.660
Stirting Group (F)		5.12m (6.1m)		230 (2.20)
laments (F)	19.12m (9.51m)	2.65m (1.11m)	3.86p (4.86p)	0.081p
Votex Green (F)	177.3m (181m)	2030 (1.11m) 14 39m (12.75m)	Distribution of the	21p (20p)
Wildebeed Mana (F)	17.05m (12.77m)	1.95m (1.18m)	O . WH. (A.1.)	1.6p
Widney (I)	18.86m (18.8m)	-167 000 (740 costs	- The fact of	1.0p (1.0p)
Yates Brothers (F)	75.75m (61.18m)	-167,000 (712,000)		4.320 (3.60)
(F) - Final (f) - Interten	An Man	10.51m (7.47m)	21.50 (149) · · ·	TACH PARTY



market report/shares

Data Bank FISE 100 4739.6 +52.9 FTSE 250 4497.3 +13.2 FISE 350 SEAQ VOLUME 871.9m shares, 53,559 bargains Gilts index Share spotlight Barrett FWAMJJASONDJE

Lucas Varity leads charge as Footsie smashes 4,700

Lucas Varity, the Anglo-American components group which has had a disc. has had a difficult run since peaking at 259p late last year, led the blue-chip charge with a 14.5p advance to 209p. Last week the price was 182p.

It is unusual for an engineer to head the pack. In recent months a financial group has normally enjoyed the distinc-

were again in the money, some Atlantic. of the more neglected Footsie constituents for once made strong progress.

Lucas Varity's display was ahead of an analysts' presentation today. Up to 40 analysts, some from the US, are set to strong futures market fuelled meet company executives at the group's Perkins diesel factory at Peterborough.

The suspicion is LucasVarity, with first-quarter results due, will have a good tale to tell and the market is intrigued by the expected US contingent.

merger which embraced Lucas Industries and the Varity Corporation; American Victor

Rice became chief executive. The enlarged group has had difficulty reconciling the de-mands of US and UK investors. Its decision to cut yearly dividends to help pay for share buybacks has run into Although many financials criticism on both sides of the

Footsic closed for the first time above 4,700 - up 52.9 points at 4,739.6. New York, hitting new peaks in London trading, Continental, particuthe advance.

But again it was very much a market of haves and havenots. Blue chips hit the high road but the rest limped, often miserably, behind. The FTSE in New York. Although the



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

the shares should go to 400p

was another bullish influence.

hanging a 500p target, gained

12p to 482.5p and Smith In-

dustries put on 7p to 784.5p

ahead of an analyst meeting.

BG flared another 9p to 218.5p

For BTR it was another day

in the dumps - down 2p to

on continuing Dresdner Klein-

wort Benson support.

BT, with Merrill Lynch

FTSE Smallcap index managed closed Nasdaq was a shade lowto close lower, albeit by a

Footsie could enjoy another romp today following the after-hours disclosure that Energy Group, the former Hanson company, could collect a bid of more than 700p from the US Pacific-Corp. Energy

shares closed at 580p, up 18.5p. There was talk some fund managers, growing increasingly disenchanted with non-Footsie shares, were selling them to buy blue chips.

The temptation to stick to market leaders was also evident 250 index, up 13.2, is more than 200 below its peak and the record territory when London

adopting a more cautious stance on the oil sector. Glaxo Wellcome jumped 39.5p to 1,273p and Amer-sham International's deal with

Pharmacia & Upjohn lifted the shares 131.5p to 1,482.5p. General Electric Co, on the Builders scored more gains possibility of a British Aeroon the widening impact of the space deal, rose 17p to 353.5p; housing recovery. Barratt Dea Lehman Brothers suggestion

velopments rose op to 245.5p. Financials moved ahead although their exuberance fell below earlier efforts. Abbey National rose 12p to 895.5p, Hal-ifax 13p to 762p and Standard Chartered 13.5p to 972.5p. National Westminster Bank

slipped 12p to 804p. Jarvis, duly confirming a substantial deal was being ne-gotiated, gained 5p to 296.5p. Morrison Construction was 184.5p. At one time the price hit 180.5p. little changed at 290p as 14 per cent of the capital was placed Enterprise Oil, off 9.5p to at 275p by directors; N Brown

688.5p, and Lasmo, 3p at shaded to 413.5p as the Alliance family sold 12.7 million shares at 400p.

Grampian TV, up 7p at 317.5p. Scottish Media now has 19.9 per cent of its target.

902.5p on its talks with Yorkshire-Type Tees TV, off 5p at 1,155p. The long-awaited bid for clothing group SR Gent finally appeared, lifting the shares

8p to 79.5p, Mice, the exhibition display

group, held at 8.5p as stock-broker Ellis & Partners placed 8.5 million shares at 8p.
Petra Diamonds added another 13p to 91.5p and Soco In-

ternational gained 20.5p to 256p on its fourth Mongolian

High Point, a property consultant, surged 30p to 57.5p; a Leong, a Malaysian group.

Taking Stock

McBride, the detergent maker, foamed 11p higher to 135.5p as Wassall emerged as Scottish Media put on 7.5p to 706p on the expected bid for The shares were 215p in 1995. Wassall, easier at 326p, has 5.6 per cent of TLG, the lighting group which had Granada added 12.5p to been seen as its next target. TGI held at 75p.

Technoplast, the Israeli plastic group, held at 97.5p. Henderson Crosthwaite says the shares are a strong buy. Profits should be £2.4m this year and £3.2m next. The company has three investments worth £18m against a £24m capitalisation.

Bradstock put on 6p to 84.5p, highest for two years. The insurance broker has trading links with Hong restructuring, including a There is talk it is increasing £7.7m cash call, is under way. its 4.7 per cent stake.

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Stevens is the talk of Ascot

Racing **GREG WOOD**

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A Samuel Bearing Control

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noon, the Epsom management were so delighted that their collective hangover may be lingering even now. If fewer than that arrive at Ascot for Ladies' Day next Thursday, however, you may find several of the track's executives sobbling quiethy into their top hats in a secluded corner of the Royal enclosure, which is not a criticism of the satisfied air at Epsom, but rather a sign of the cess of the Royal meeting.

The good old-fashioned though the only firm tip to snobbery may not be to everyone's taste (do not even bother to apply for the Royal enclosure unless a badge-holder with eight years' attendance is prepared to second you), nor too the irritating number of racegoers who can distinguish Versace from Lacroix at 20 paces but would not recognise Henry Cecil if he handed them his business card.

When it comes to racing of the highest quality, however, there is simply nothing in the world to match the 15 Pattern races at Royal Ascot, as the country's racegoers are clearly well aware. All four days feature among the 10 best-attended race-days of 1996, with Gold Cup day (76,316) at the top of the list, and the Wednesday (57,259) and Friday (53,145) placed fourth and fifth respectively.

In fact, the meeting is responsible for almost five per cent of the total attendance at all British courses over the entire year, a snippet of trivia which takes some believing until you study the anticipated fields for some of next week's

main events. The St James's Palace Stakes on Tuesday, for instance, is expected to include the winners of the 2,000 Guineas in France looking down that long straight, (Daylami), Ireland (Desert and Pat said to me, which way King) and Germany and Italy are you going? I thought, 'it's straight down, how many choicthird, fourth and fifth from the

English 2,000 Guineas. Ladbrokes, who opened a book on the race yesterday, right and I had to make a very make Davlami their 9-4 favourite, and then bet: 5-2 Desert King, 4-1 Poteen, 5-1 Za-mindar, 6-1 Starborough, 10-1 Hidden Meadow, 16-1 bar.

The quality is excellent news too for the BBC, which now relies on Ascot for almost a third communication. of its annual racing coverage and

year deal (cost undisclosed) to extend their contract for a fur-When 72,000 people turned up to watch the Derby four days

tion will also address the unfortunate lack of depth in much of their racing coverage when compared to that of Channel 4, with the launch of a rival to the latter station's Morning Line during next week's meeting.
First Show, which will air for 25 minutes from 11.35 each morning of Royal Ascot, will include previews of the day's racing and betting news.

yesterday signed a new three-

John Gosden, Barry Hills, Robert Sangster and Clive Brittain were among the figures disremarkable and continuing sucmeeting at Ascot yesterday, al-

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Swan Hunter (Newmarket 8.10) **NB: Reinhardt** (Beverley 3.00)

emerge was for Sangster's twoyear-old Cape Verdi. The filly's owner admitted that he will be 'very disappointed" if she fails to win the Chesham Stakes. The most impressive performance, however, was given by the American jockey Gary Stevens, who had arrived straight from the airport but gave no bint of jet-lag as he discussed his excitement at the prospect of rid-

ing at the Royal meeting.
"It will be an honour and an education for me to ride here," Stevens, who narrowly failed to complete the American Triple Crown on Silver Charm last weekend, said. "I've studied European racing since I was a child, and the great European riders, and I'm a great fan of Lester Piggott and Pat Eddery.

Stevens had rides at Newmarket a decade ago, and found the experience interesting. "It was a mile and an eighth, and I was drawn in the middle with Pat Eddery on one side of me. I was es do you have?', and then the stalls opened and half of them went lett and the other di quick decision."

cation for Stevens, but there will be many members of the racing media hoping that the American can also teach his fellow jockeys a little about the art of Yesterday's results, page 31

Lindsay still in contention

Maurice Lindsay, the rugby league supremo, has re-emerged as a contender for the post of chairman of the Tote after being interviewed by the Home Office for a second time.

That places him on a shortlist of three for the job alongside Guy Watkins, the former chief executive of Hong Kong racing, and the long-time favourite for the role, Peter Jones.

TERMET

HYPERION 6.50 Elite Governor 7.20 Jay Em Ess 7.50 Santella Boy (nb) 8.20 Ballet Royal 8.50 Diwali Dancer 9.20 Totally Yours

GOING: Good to Firm.

Left-hand course. Run-in of 170yd. ADMISSION: Club 215 (OAPs 212); Tattersells 210 (OAPs 57); Course 54. CAR
PARK: Free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Manage's
Male (rightered 5 55) COING: Good to Firm.

Mole (visored, 5.50).
Winness in LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Ritte Governor (6.50) has been sent 235 miles by
N Langard from Kingsbridge, Devon. 6.50 MAIDEN HURDLE (E) £3,000

6.50 MARIJET TRUTALL (1)
3m 110yds
1 644 BEX MD CRL 8 115 _____ T J Murphy
2 DJP. BURNY HAVE 9 115 _____ M Maloney
3 3k3. COMMODIT BROKER (0) 12 115 0 Upon
4 3k5 BUT GOUBRION (0) 8 115 L D Demondy
5 013- ULCHY CRL 8 115 ____ N Marish
6 OPP. MARIATS MOLE 6 115 ___ N Marish
7 22- NOT MESTALEN (0) 8 115 ___ A P MCDy
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7.20 SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 5

7.20 SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(6) £2,375 2m 4f 110 yels
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3 204 MAGGES 140 9 13 3 __ R Regentil 8
5 54 MOTEMO (C) 10 11 __ G Mantle
6 34 JAY EM ESS 8 11 0 __ G Shartin (T)
6 34 JAY EM ESS 8 11 0 __ R P Michol
7 314 REGIOCA 7 10 12 __ R Dumoudy B
9 23. PMILION 4 10 10 __ R Dumoudy B
9 021 MOREMSED WOOD 9 10 8 __ R Johnston
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11 416 EDIJ DE RINNES (SI) 7 110 ___ S Fox
12 303 RESH DUMOUND 7 10 0 __ D Brown (S)
13 074 AMASANA 6 110 0 __ M R Thombox (S)
14 UFG _USS AMAY 6 100 ___ K Garde
15 POD DERBING WELL 7 100 ___ K Garde

16 555- JAMES JOY 7 100 W Maston V 17 604- SALLOW GLEN 11 100 ____ Dr P Palsbard - 17 declared -BETTRIG: 4-1 Paulton, Flintlock, 8-1 Hacketts Cross, Edward Seymour, Maximo, 10-1 others 7.50 NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,000

270 (7)
1 3(1- CAMMAGEZ (CD) 7 118 __A P McCoy
2 241- MRSHER CHUSADER (C) 11 118 ______ Mr S Desck (7) 3 8225 ARRES (8P) C James 8 11 2 ... C beauty 07 4 PP. HR CHAPPUS 6 11 2 ... It Resemble 5 PH. SAMELIA BOY (9) 5 TH. SAMELIA BOY (9)

- 7 declared -BETTING: 6-4 Santolie Boy, 9-4 Santonglitz, 11-2 Arise, 7-1 Mester Crusader, 10-1 Dara's Course, 16-1 Mr Casspus, 25-1 Lady Of Mice 8.20 HANDICAP HURDLE (D) 52.50 FORTH STATE OF THE STATE

5 153- MR MOBRETY (D) 6 10 4_1 Concounts (D) - 5 declared -BETTINE: 7-4 Nordic Breeze, 3-1 Nome Of Our Re-ther, Saliet Royal, 4-1 Lagan, 7-1 hir Morierty 8.50 HANDICAP CHASE (D)

£6.500 2m 5f

—5 declared — BETING: evens Direll Denote, 9-4 Mine's An Act, 11-2 Evening Rain, 10-1 Over The Pole, Gold's Shroad 9.20 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D)

E 3,750 270

1 3GP CHEF GALE 5 11 0 M A Fizzgrada V
2 3 SALORMATE 6 11 0 T Described G3
3 50F ASA ME N 6 10 9 3 Wysel
4 PAF MCHELES GWSDA 6 10 9 R Suple
5 YOUNG YOURS 4 10 4 A P MICRY
6 TOURLY YOURS 4 10 4 A P MICRY £3,750 2m

- 6 declared -BETTHIC 5-4 Totally Years, 2-1 Salionnaite, 7-1 Zellini, 8-1 Chief Smio, 10-1 others

* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + BEVERLEY YARMOUTH NEWMARKET (E) 974 975 HAMILTON (E) (5) Calls and Sile per minute. LLS, pt., Southern 9 ICA 49

Revoque return

Revoque, a failure in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, will begin his comeback in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, his owner said yesterday. Robert Sangster said that although he was keen to run the colt at Royal Ascot, his son, Ben, was against it. Revoque, runner-up to Entrepreneur at Newmarket, returned sick from Ireland and was unable to run in the Derby in which the owner's Romanov was third.

NEWMARKET

6.40 Plice Creek 8.10 Dancing Queen 7.10 Arawak Cay 7.40 Octavia Hill 8.40 Right Tune 9.10 High Intrigue

GOING: Good - straight stile (remainder - Good to Firm).

STALLS: Stands side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Eight-hand course with 1m straight (July course).

Course in south-west of town on A1001. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmerket rail stations. ADMISSION: Glub 516 (16 to 25-year-olds 510); Grambsterd & Paddock 510 (16 to 25-year-olds 55); Family Environments St. CAR PARE: Members 51; remainder free.

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH SUNNERS: H Ceeff - 65 winners from 250 runners makes a mission of 527-40. R Rammen -

ga LEADING TRAINERS WITH SUMMERS: H Coeff. — 63 winners from 2-30 runners gives a survers ratio of 24.3% and a profit to a £1 level stake of 527.40; E Ramson — 43 winners, 520 runners, 282 runners, 250 runners, 25

WINTERS IN THE EAST OF SET WINTERS, HOMY MINES (1-40) WHI II SOUTHERS OF PRINCE (3.10) WHI II SOUTHERS OF PRINCE PRINCE EURNERS: Hargill Ludy (7.40) has been sent 206 miles by J W Wates from Richmond, North Yorkshire; Ordained (8.10) & Suez Tornado (8.40) have been sent 200 miles by Morth Yorkshire; Ordained (8.10) Suez Tornado (8.40) have been sent 200 miles by Mrs M Erveley from Lingshie, Cleveland; Yot Again (8.10) sent 192 miles by Mine Goy Kelleway from Widtensibe, Donnet.

6.40 JUPITER LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 6f 175yds Penalty Value £3,558

3203-0 GANHAM ISLAND (AM) (8 N You's) C Bettern 9 9 10 ________ 8 Doyle 1.
4450-2 DESERT DUNES (3th piles Lazar Junes) N Gesham 4 9 10 _______ R Cocheno 2.
955 TRANSINE (25) (1 C Prontitions Life M Blanchard 4 9 10 _______ J Quien 6.
00-420 PRECREEK (85A) (25) (Rober & Exabeth Hatmasi I Baking 4 9 7 ______ W Ryan 5.
244 POLYPHONY (85A) (25) (Mohistary R Chestern 3 B 6._____ Put Enterny 3 B.
0-64 WHITELAWHILE (85A) (25) (Mokistary A Hatmash B Dunitop 3 8 4 ____ D O'Denohoe (5) 4 – 6 declared – SETTING: 5-2 Polyphory, 3-1 Piles Creek, 4-1 Desert Dames, Whirtmable, 8-1 Chatham Island, 14-1

PORM GUEDE
Unraced as a two-year-old, POLYPHONY has yet to run a bad race after three outings. Runner-up bohind Brand New Dance at Wolvemempton in April on his debut, Ruger Chariton's
colt went one better at Cartale two weeks later and did well under 9st 6lb in his first handicip when a three-and-a-half-length fourth to Right Man over this distance at Notingham
19 days ago – conceding a stone to the winner. Pat Eddery teams up with the US-bred for
the first time here and he can return to writing form. Pilice Creek, a close-up fourth of 19
herbind Propor Kinsky at Essom in April on her weren, chassed home 25-1, chance Last Lusth. the Irst time nere and he can return to waning time, here creek, a cross-up nourse or 19 behind Prince Kinsky at Epsom in April on her return, chased home 25-1 chance last Laugh at Beth next time but best only one home in the 15-runner side won by Tumpole at York, being eased when all chance had gone. A better forecast bet might be Desert Denes, who can Rasing Spray, a previous scorer, to a head on his reoppearance at Selsbtury five weeks ago. Chethem Island has a good record over the years and, although a long way admit of Phic Creek at Epsom, will be much straighter for the run – his first since he went in at Karmouth lest August.

Selection: POLYPHONY

7.10 DAILY TELEGRAPH MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £3,753 ARABINIK CRY (Lucayan Stud) D Loder B 10
GIFT OF GOLD (18) (7 J Doveon V Campbel 8 10
LITTLE INDIAN (6 V Wingto) S Woods B 10
ALDINIVEN ARROW (The Aldeych Parmoshop M Bell 8 7 ... _W Ryse S Roberts 10 _1 Deltori 2 rock (UR) Late D Bawaran 8 7.....

- 10 tholared -SETTING: 7-4 Armenic Cay, 11-4 Union Heights, 12-2 Regionder, 8-1 Marmora Ray, 5-1 Aldwych 2014, 10-1 Brimstone, 14-1 Bulla D'Ales, Little Indian, 16-1 Denhardia, 20-1 Gift Of Gold

Pick of the trio with expensance appears to be Manners Bay, who finished a two-length third behind dieletest on his proposition at the Casien meeting here but coald do no better than sorth of rate to Classy Cloo at Pontelect 11 days efferwerts, However, this can go to newcomer and Devid Loder's ARAWMAK CRY, a 26,000ghs Common Ground cott out of a Person Bold mate, might be the one. Disner Pesher takes the nde. Hindeader, a son of the speedy Magic Parg, Institute of a never-dangerous fourth (of 10) to Oth Never Again on his debut at Wolverhampton 12 days ago but will progress. Even so, the selection might have most to beer from a fellow newcomer in Luce Cumany's Linden Heights, a 19,000ghs purchase who is by Distinctly North from a Shirley Heights mare.

Selection: ARAWMAK CRY

7.40 NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added filles & mares 7f Penalty Value £3,948 30264- BADGER BAY (290) (M E Hall) C Dayer 4 9 12. ...Pat Eddery 5 ...O Pestier 2 8 X folia: 1

- 11 constité -BETTANE S-1 Cotavin HIII, 11-2 Molly Marie, 8-1 Shorp 'w' Shady, 8-1 In Chaininha, 9-1 Radger Ray, 10-1 Punh A Venture, 11-1 Hajat, 14-1 others

FORM GUIDE

OCTAVAA HELL showed much improved form when running Allinson's Manp to a length in a field of 15 in an apprentice event at Doncaster last time. Peter Hants's filly has been an added the for that but sine can open her account with Other Pester an eye-catching booking. Modely Mosels has been in action at all-weather meetings and has improved a placing with each ly Mingic has been in action at all-reacher meetings and lass improved a placing with each of her text three races, most recently when striking winning from at Southwell less Friday. The filty made the frame four times on turf in 1998 and should do so again this time. Sharps in Sharps for the striking on meet of further when a two-and-a-half-length fourth of 15 behind Deerly over so, furlangs at Chepsiav 16 days ago, 30 the extra furlang on this striker track should suit. Che Well's runner finance ago of that to Absolute Mago over tonight's track should not her final start test term, Hungill Lady, runner-up twos test season – behind Cestain Magor at Rippon and Bishops Court at Harration – will be stamper for her Newcastle severath of 19 to Smokey From Captaw test morth, her first appearance sense Conder. The fifty can figure with Francise Dettors in the saddle, be Chatelelake heart that much sport account floyston Fitnent bating the nice. Gooff Lens's filly inshed a little more than couple of lengths off the same mark tongth, Major showed some sharp to asset sense and son't out of it even if she has run unplaced in both outings so for this term.

Selection: CCTAVIA HILL

TEN ESSEY MID (HANDICADA (M. 1995 ET 45 000 added 1m 4f

ากเ	ESSEY COL (UNIVERSAL) (OCUSO El SEMON EN	יד מע נוסט
	Penalty Value £4,045	
26-045	AMCCENT QUEST (J.Q (Michourts) N Calagram 4 10 0	_Paul Eddery 3
002150	FAURY HORBITE (5) (7) (P & S Lover Partient) R Hacross 5 9 13	Pot Eddery 1
-00462	SHEAR HEARDER (126) UNION CORRES D CONSTRUCT 4 9 12	_H Ricorr 11
60-035	LOCKENSFORMANISON (31) (CD) (SF) (B M Security) Bots Jones 9 9 8	1 Day 23
0620-0	CALMINDREE (19) (The Record Company) J Whaten 4 9 4	K Felton 2
20-155	WENT A FUSS (33) (B Hartury) B Hartury 4 9 2	
0045-0	ADMINALS SECRET RISA) (9) (5) (May CA Well C Wall 8 9 1	_N Cardinio 10
000-32	ORDANIED (S) (Pater Ebdon Record E Aiston 4 9 0	F Bites 8
00000-0	FORMIDABLE FLAME (25) (Mrs Rts Brown) W Musson 48 11	.R Cochrane 5
	DANICING QUEEN (15) (Ars E.A. Harris) M. Bell 3.8.10	
2.30	VENTURE COMMECT (105) (Angle Telecom Centres Pic) C Books 3 8 8	_R Perham 15
3-0101	COTTAGE PRINCE (S) (D) (Mrs Kay Thomas) J.J. Ourn 488 (4ed	1. Dettori 7
60-0	MODREJENT INVADER (\$2) Okalesum Al Malesum) & Dunion 3 8 5 D 01	Onchos (3) 12
207-0200	STAPY DAME (4) (DA (The Ox His Rivers) C Smith 5.85	Culture 14 V
	YET AGAIN ON (IN) (IN) U. P CINTIN Gay Kellevay 5.8.3	
	- 15 declared -	
NC 5-1	Cottage Prince, 11-2 Yet Again, 15-2 Steat Hunter, 8-1 Pairy Xolgid	, 9-1 Ordelnod,

18-1 Ancient Quest, Duncing Quern, 12-1 Mossight breads how, 18-1 Admirals Secret, Futeridable Flame, 20-1 others ider, What A Fires, 14-1 Lookingto

PORAL GUIDE

This can go to GRDAINED, trained by Enc Alston in Preston. The daugster of Miloto was twice a winner last season, both at Redox. She was note lengths of the winner when third of sky to Gold Desire on her responsance at Ayr lest month but she millionarry to half a length at Leicester rane days ago and races off the same rating this time. Yet Again was

warrang for the third time from four starts the year when detending Duncombe Hall a length at Bington in April – the pair have lengths clear. The five-year-old distinct from 5-4 to 5-2 after starting fourth to Misermang on a return to the Sustan, track eight days ago Lockingforarambow (without a win for two years) a couple of lengths admit when they were second and third to Desen Fighter at Thank in April and should confirm the form on 3to ran well both times, most necessity when fifth and should confirm the form on 3to ran well both times, most necessity when fifth of 23 behand Carburton at Window have since. Cottings Patrone comes here in good form with vertices in two of his last time starts and length and a half at Cattench last finday. Sheen House harn't been successful since his debut at Musselburgh in April of 1996 but ran Eurress Gift to a neck at Haydook last time.

Selections ORDANED

8.40 SPORT OF KINGS TOUR HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m Pennity Value £3,818

1 Seez Torando, 12-1 Saltando, 19-1 offices

FORM GUINE

Right Tume, who wan the race in which Entrepreneur, starting at 9-1 on, friished fourth in when making his debut here last August, followed with a buirth behind Blue River at a latter meeting here. Bein Hambury's hiy sound up last timm with a second to Brandon Jack at Goodwood but was unplaced on her return and was better not a second to Brandon Jack at to Bear's Ruby at Apr. MO ADDAB tooks a much better proposition. Successful at Portettact and Accot in 1995, Alec Steward's charge ran some good ruces without annung in 1996 and his Chepstow success in a conditions event lost mante on his first appearance since September will have boosted his conditions event lost mante on his first appearance and he can tollow up. Jacker's Boy, with over tongin's timp at Thirsk on his reappearance and feeled to last home when tacking an additional quarter-mile and unplaced at Wannack, Many Reveley's States' Spirit was included out by Can Can Lady at Newcascie in May on his first outing since November but finished nearer last train first in Out Of Sight's risce of York.

9.10 VENUS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m

NG: 5-2 Seattle Art, 11-4 Lime, 11-2 legh Intrigue, 5-1 Badge Of Fame, 7-1 Prince Alex, 10-ne Gloquot, 12-1 Haddd, Zerpoer, 16-1 Aboo Hom

FORM GUIDE

LIFFRE was easy to back when making her debut at Nortingram last October but finished a promising five-and-9-half-length fourth for 1.3 to Faconizing Rhythm, staring on strong-ly after missing the break. The Seder's Weisk thip hash'r raced since but John Gosten is likely to produce the filly fit enough and she can open her account. From an entry of tioe, Henry Cool hurs Seattle Art inverse Felion and High Intrigue (Milbe R) and Seattle Art finished one placing behind Hadde when both were in the ruck behind Mandala at Yarmouth at the end of October but he as making his first appearance then and can reverse the form. Neither hes rocad since but Seattle Art, a Seattle Slew half-brother to the same stable's useful Allegan, is another who will be straight enough. High Intrigue dirited from 2-1 to 5-1 when stath of 1.2 to Dur People at Leicester has backend on his single start so far and this son of dual Derby hero Shirley Heights tooks sure to find a wirring opportunity in due course.

SALISBURY

HYPERION

2.20 Desert Lady 2.50 The Fugative 3.20 Sharo imp 3.50 Winter Garden 4.20 Mr Sponge 4.50 Love Has No Pride

GOING: Good to Firm.

STALLS: Straight course - far side; 1m 2f - Inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Bight-band course, mainly uphill and testing.

Course is 3m SW of city of A3084. Sallabury station (London, Waterloo-Exeter line) 3m. Bus service to course. ADMISSION: Members 5.13; Tattersulis 50; Course Enclosure 54 (accompanied under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free. RIJNERPED FIRST TIME: None.

VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Littlestone Rocket (2.50) won at Folkestone on Wednesday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Ned's Bonnaza (2.50) has been sent 285 miles by M Dods from Piercebridge, Co. Durham; Tycoones (3.50) sent 264 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorks

-1	0.00	EBF WHITEPARISH NOVICE STAKE
- 1	1220	(CLASS D) £4,350 added 2YO fillies 5
- 1		
		DESERT LADY A Creation 8.8TSuralce
- 1		
	12	DODO D Esworth & BPat Eddary
	3	JONUTINAY'S CIFIL J Bridger 8 8
1	Ă	KARKAFIL P Waltern 88
	2 3 4 5	MICSURALER MIGHT R Hermon 88
	6	ROBIN LANE Baiding 8 8
	l ī	SABRE GRL R Hannon B B
- 1	İġ	SALIGD H Momeon B 8C Redier
- 1		
	9 05	UNIVERSAL LADY (18) C James 8.8 Reld

Royal Ascot may be an edu-

1		, 8-1 58	29 Bill, Universit Liny, 12-1 others
	2	.50	AMBIER TRUST HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f
1	1	-04050	FREDIOLY BRAVE (46) (D) (SP) Cay Kellandy 7 10 0
- 1	2	0001-0	(AGH DOMAN 447) (CD) J Spearing 6 9 12 S Droving 10
1	2 3 4		SHARP STOCK (B) R Hodges 4 9 7Scele Mitchell 4
1	4		MACBELLYCUDDY (1.6) (D) Mrs N Dutlett 8 9 6
- 1			T £ Darcas (5) 8 8
- 1	5 8	40-541	LUCKY DIP (12) (D) D Elevorth 3 9 5
ŀ	8	0-0003	NED'S BOWNEZA (13) (D) M Dods 8 8 10
- 1	7	-60502	PASPANOX (12) (D) 6 McCourt 5 8 10 C Rutter 2
- 1	8		THE FURGINE (14) P Natural 4 8 8
1	9	00-000	NED TIME 69 M Sounders 488
1	16	600601	LITTLESTONE ROCKET (7) (D) W Mar 38 7 (684)
- 1			
-1	11	000-0	MERCHANICE TO DRIEMA (23) B R Militan 3 8 3
- 1			Temata I
ı	12	0-0302	CHEP'S LADY (8) J M Bradley 5 7 10F Norton 7

Minimum weight: 7st 10to. True handless weight: Chief's Ludy 7st 8b. BETTRIC: 9-2 Lucky Dip, 6-1 Nod's Bennam, Barrinalt, Littlestone et, 8-1 Friendly Brave, Chief's Ludy, 10-1 High Dempin, 12-1 ethe

HYPERION

2.00 Oatey 2.30 Mister Bankes 3.00 Cee-lay-Ay 3.30 Mr Teigh 4.00 Augustan 4.30 Neronian 5.00 Prima Verde

GOING: Good to Pitte. STALLS: Instite. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 54 & 71 100 yets.

STALLS: Irode. DRAW ADVANTABLES: high for Rt 27 100yrs.

Eight-hand, galloping course with very stiff St.

Course is In W of town on A1025. Bus service from Bevericy station (Hull - Scarborough line) 2m. ADMISSION: Club 512; Junior Club (16 to 21-year-olds) 58; Taxternills 58; Silver Ring 52; Course Endosure 52; Pienic area 52 or 52 per car, plus 52 per occupant. CAR PARE: Prec.

SILVERERED PIRST TIME: Taxt And A Bulf (visured) (2.00); Missew Burtles. Minu Revelod (visured) (2.00); Prompector's Cove (vi-

ter Bankes, Miss Reveled (visored) (2.10); Prospector's Cove (vi-

sored) (3.30). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Reinhards (3.00) & Mr

Windsack (1990) won here on Thursday. Telgh (3,30) won here on Thursday. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Cospina Mora (2,00) & Mister Bankes (3,30) sent 256m by WG M Turner from Conton Denham, Son.

200 POLYBON (HUMBERSIDE) HANDICAP

0000-0 CH WHAT COUNTY ST C South 5 9 3 LK Herigian 18

- 17 declared -

bänimum weight: 7st 10th. The heading weight: Roberfield Park 7st 3th. BETTRIC 6-1 Cellsy, 7-1 Susant Harbors, 8-1 Dominalle, Hystinil, 10-1 Phorneh's Joy, Gusplen Morn, Amoehn, Superfells, 12-1 others

230 MORE LEARNING CLAHMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 270 5f

11 facilized 11 facilized 15 facilized 16 facilized 16 facilized 16 facilized 16 facilized 16 facilized 16 facilized 17 facilized 18 facilized 18 facilized 18 facilized 19 fac

MeGadin (7) 10 B

(CLASS E) £4,100 filles & mares 5f

20	BOLLINGER SERIES AMATEUR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 7f
	(CLASS F) £4,000 added 7f
	WHETE SETTLER (14) (IS) R Hodges 4 12 0 Mr J Tissand 7
	MR NEVERMEND (110) (D) G L Moore 7 11 10
	Lift (Mongre (4) 5
3430-4	MOROCCO (15) (CD) M Channon S 11 6Mr R Thomban 6
455422	SHARP BIP (13) (D) (86) R M Power 7 11 6
	Hr T McCarthy 3 B
0-5450	POINTIER (18) (CS) Mrs N Dutfield 5 11 4Mr L Jefford 10
	880/AGO (16) (0) R Harmon 3 11 4
	SELVER LINENCE (12) A P Jones 3 10 10_Mr J Coldstain (4) 2
	DELIGNT OF DIGITAL CT. (D) E Wheeler S 10 5

_Mr J Donburst (4) 9

Afrikum weight 9st 70, True handigap weight Severn Afri 9st 20. BETTING: 9-4 hir Nevermind, 9-2 Sharp Imp, 7-1 White Settler, Moror co., 10-1 Pointer, Silver Lining, 12-1 Havego, Justicisous, 14-1 others

-			
3.50	BISHOPSTONE STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 3YO 1,m 6f.		
	WINTER GARDIEN (25) (SIF) L. Cumani 9 2		
	FLETCHER (27) II Monton & 11R Hoghes 3		
32	THEOPIA (145 (67) Salding 8 11		
6	FOLEYS QUEST (9) I Saiding 8 11		
-	TYCOONESS M Johnston 8.3 Franke !		
	- 5 declared -		
ETTBKE: 4-8 Winter Gordon, 9-4 Tikopia, 8-1 Tycococcs, 12-1 Flotcher			
L 4 Enlang Princes			

FONTHELL STUD & SU 4.20 BLES MAIDEN STAKES (D) £4,900 3YO 7f 5 BALLADARA (19) R Hannon 9 0 20 6800 (11) J Poulton 9 0 0-053 ICHAFAAQ (21) (85) W R Hem 9 0 _T Spraine 9 O ROLDEE BOY CLAS A P Jones 9 0 ... _R Price (

- 10 declared — BETTING: 13-8 Khutang, 7-2 lif Spongs, 7-1 Meliteer, 8-1 6Ke, 10-1 Reliators, 14-1 Verdi, Over The Moore, 16-1 others A EA BARFORD ST MARTIN LIMITED STAKES

(CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 2f			
1	05000-	BULLFINCH (358) R Philips 4.9 6	
2	4500-0	LONGERTO (15) V Spane 4 9 6	
3	30-030	MEDIEVAL LADY (24) Balting 4 9 3 Rold :	
4		MODET (76) (D) G Virage 3 B 9N Hills	
5	521	SCOSS (12) (D) L Current 3.8 9	
6	-35364	CARLYS QUEST (5) J Neulle 3 8 7	
7	-20404	LOVE HAS NO PROPE (LA) R Harmon 387 Done O'Hell	
		- 7 declared -	
BETTERE: 11-8 Motest, 5-2 Scoot, 9-2 Leve Heat No Pride, 8-1 Cardys Quest			
12-1 Medievel Lady, 20-1 Bellinch, 33-1 Lemberto			

3.00 ELTHERINGTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £5,000 added 7f 100yds

3.30 UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLNSHIRE & HUM-BERSIDE H'CAP (CLASS D) £5,000 1m 2f 0.0039 PHOSPERSONE COVER (13) 89 J Practo 4 100 _ M. Weldom 1 V 0200-0 PLYING HORITH (24) lass M Reveloy 4 9 12 _____ A Culture 3 519-00 Institutes (14) 0 Lode 3 9 6 _____ A Culture 3 00051. M TERRE (6) (20) Ms J Remoter 5 9 4 (Sed. ___ J Fortune 6 0001-00 Address (14) (0) D Haydr Loses 6 8 13 _____ L Charmack 5 0351/0 001.0 D DERRE (15) (0) M Brown 7 8 2 _____ J Lone 2 - S technol -SETTNO-S 4 Mr Teigh, 4-1 Bunders, 5-1 Philog North, 11-2 Sold Dooles, 6-1 Askers, 12-1 Prospector's Case

4.00 ERNEST NORRIS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 4f

4.30 UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,100 1m 100yds

5.00 REGIONAL UNIVERSITY MADEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 77 100yds 1 QUART DEBNE M Brown 4 9 7 D Managh (7) 5
2 QUART DEBNE MR HE MAT (8) M Backy 4 9 7 G Fortis (6) 2
3 O FORMA VERUE (289 L Curren 4 9 2 K Qurley 6
4 O TRANSOMA (272) R Hotherhood 4 9 2 F Lyand 4
5 QUART SEMAN (7) M Brown 3 8 11 J Curren 8
6 QUART SEMAN (7) M Brown 3 8 11 LOWO 7
7 QUART SEMAN (22) G TRANSON 3 8 11 T Williams 3
8 A3 ROUND ROUND (22) G TRANSON 3 8 11 Description 1
9 SETTING 2-1 Round Robbo, 9-4 Policy Verda 3 8 11 J Fertime 9
-9 description -9
BETTING 2-1 Round Robbo, 9-4 Policy Verda 3 1 1 Stary Verlac, 6-1 Robot Man, 10-1 Ferrent Signal, 20-1 Qualitat Description, 33-1 efficies CHART DESIRE M British 497_ D Morangh (7) S & Parkin (6) 2

HYPERION 210 As-Is 240 Shawdon 310 Hattab 340 Lasham 4.10 Rambold 4.40 Sharpwitted 5.10 Princess Of Hearts

Li Quine 2 R Walter (5) 11

GOING: Firm.
STALLS: Straight course — far aids; rest — treide.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f to 1m.

Left-hand course, level and fair.

Come is N of town on A149, Yarmouth station 1m. ADMIS-SIONE Close 51,2 Tames-sale 58.50; Course 54.50, CAR PARK: \$1. RLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mechille (2.10); The Hobby Lobby (visored) (3.40), VINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Eposine (2.10) won a

Callerick or Fridge.

CONG-DISTANCE EIRINKES: Princess Of Heartn (6.10) has been sent 291 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devot. 2.10 CHARTER HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 1m 6f -00341 EPOMINE (6) (4) M Chennon 99 (5 621126 Ag-45 (15) M Johnston 9 6 D Hemanic 4
521224 Agrosmo (16) (8F) S C Wilterns 9 3 K Fallon 3
00-522 JUCHIDA (15) J Peace 9 0 B Doyle 1
0500- GOLDEN MELODY (229) M Heston-Glis 8 13 S Sanders 9
40-001 AURELIAN (15) (7) M Bel 8 10 M Featon 6
0-6051 Delant Standistr (14) (7) B Hembry 8 9 J Sande 10
000-05 GIMSER ROGERS (14) D Advance 7 12 J Quinn 2

000-00 MECHELE (44) J W Payne 7 10...

- 10 decented - 12h. Minimum weight: 7s: 10th. The Arndicap weight: Mechille Ost 12h. BETTHK: 7-2 Jucinda, 9-2 Eponine, 11-2 High On Life, Aurolian, 8-1 As-la, Krosno, 8-1 Danie Summit, 20-1 others 2.40 RIVER BURE NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 270 6f Monte Honorth 3 UP THE WALL | Campbel 8 12... HIS CHILLIP C Dayer 8 7...... BETTRIC: 1-3 Showdon, 7-1 Great Molody, 10-1 Up The Wall, Jus'shill-

3.10 RADIO NORFOLK CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,325 added 6f ________Hex &+ BETTERS: 8-13 Venture Controllet, 5-2 Heitab, 7-1 Johnny Staccato, 18-1.

HYPERION

7.00 King Of Show 7.30 Rivadian 8.00 Philister

8.30 Trying Times 9.00 Outsourcing 9.30 Sherqy

Eight-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop.

Eight-hand undulating course with pear-shaped loop.

Eight-hand undulating form on BTOT1. Hamilton West relively station (service from Glasgow) is 1m away. ADMESSION: Chib £12; Grandstand and Paddock £7 (£4 for OAPs, disabled & studies.)

ES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Philipper (8.00) won at

Newcastle on Wednesday and at Epsons on Priday. LONG-DESTANCE EURINEES: Bichenhacher (7.30) has been sent 376 miles by P Chapple-Hyum from Manson, Wiltshire.

7.00 AKELER DEVELOPMENTS AMATEUR RE-

-00233 JUNE 1908 (12) (20) S Retrievel 8 12 0 ... Mrs D Notificant 8 044416 - Aguste Connec (15) (0) D Chapman 5 11 13

-05800 (Shapes Projects 21) (CD) Mass L Pearte 13

000-05: Tables or Section (21) (D) R Alex 6 20 5.

Mr V Laterclak (D) 17 V August (A) (D) 18 V August (A) (D) 17 V August (A) (D) 18 V August (A)

7.30 GLENGOYNE SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £10,000

added 1m 1f 30yds

1000 (12) (C) (D) Mice L Perset 5 9 7.

501-54 TEXTERNAL NEW (12) (CD) D Haydin Jones 4 11 12....

111465 #88780 (11) (0) | Golde 4 11 3 | 11465 #888780 (11) (0) | Golde 4 11 3 | 11465 #888780 (11) (0) (07) (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) | (07) |

ERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added

Man P Clark 2

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

sored, 9.30)

STALLS: Sunds side except im & imif (inside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best for im to im 1f.

5-0104 PRIMA SILV (103) (CD) M Ryan 6 10 0......... 0-5230 HANDONY'S USHER (34) (D) C Muray 5 9 4 ___ __Nicola Hoverth 6 – 8 december – 8 d 4.40 WEATHERBYS PEDIGREES MAIDEN MOON FARM I Smyrn-Ostourne 8 11 Senders 5
SMARTHITTED / Gosder 8 11 Film 7
0-2 TETHCAR (6) B Harbury 8 11 M Ringwer 2

3.40 TOLLHOUSE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 2YO 7f

...J F Estan 2

14 LASHAM (LS) N Calagram 9 2
SICK AS A PARRIOT C Dayer 8 11
SPARRIURS SECRET C HARRY 8 11
NO CALLERAN (19) M CITATION 8 11
CALLERAN (19) M Enarrior 8 6
GET FURTHAL (11) P D Enars 8 6
ON THING SET AND TEXT A TEXT OF 8

- / occared BETTHO: 5-4 Lephan, 11-4 Californ, 3-1 The Hobby Lobby, 19-1 Sick As A Perrot, 20-1 Sparking Secret, Firther, 25-1 Thos lebad

4.10 POTTER HEIGHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f

00 TIMOS ISLAND (50) M Tomplers 8 5.

522-04 TOPKTORI (25) M Tomplers 8 11.... PETTING: 1-2 Sharputted, 4-1 Tithcar, 9-1 Tepstori, 14-1 Moon Fairy 25-1 Blazer's Belry, Calcularge Glory, Love Over Gold

5.10 HORNING HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO fillies 1m 2f

001-43 SCHARBEN (8) (20) (RF) 5 Kentewell 9 9 13 _____ Form 335-5 PRIME LIGHT (33) G Wagg 4 9 13 _____ K Dari 510-00 CELEBRATION CARE (47) (20) Mass L Petrat 5 9 10 ____

8.00 SAINTS AND SINNERS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 1m 65yds

dents, £10 for couples); accompanied under-16s free all enclo-sures. GAR PARK: Free. ELINKERED FIRST TIME: Nguere Princess (9,00); Trilby (*) 8.30 HAMILTON ADVERTISER SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 1m 1f 38yds

to, 10-1 Down Hourtod, Sweet Hote, 14-1 Trying Times, 16-1 others

9.00 WILCON HOMES EBF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 6f 9UZZ C Thoman 9 0 _______ Deem McKeeum 4 NY LOST LOVE M Johnson 9 0 ______ Wester 3

O SHALYARI (15) Abs J Remoden 8 9...... — 9 declared — BETTING: 7-2 My Lost Love, Crizee Mental, Linnasa, 5-1 Outsourcing, 7 1 Shalyah, 10-1 Surnt Yates, 12-1 Sharp Shooter, 16-1 others

9.30 TENNENT CALEDONIAN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 5f

04-004 TRELEY (11) 6 Richards 4 9 10 ______T Quien 2 V 000244 SHERQY (12) 8 Kentewen 5 9 10 ______T Pochane 4 26309' TREPROFERIE (27 (28)) R Alban 6 9 8 ______W Wester 6 065201 LORD ADMOCREE (19 (20)) D Noben 9 9 5 (5ec) J. Silent (5) 5 B 000063 CORS MA FRANCISCE (8) Mass 1. Perror 4 9 0 _____K Denley 7

-7 decised -BETTING: 11-4 Lord Advocate, 7-2 Silver Pearl, 9-2 Shorny, 5-1 Trilly, Cals Na Parnigs, 8-1 Thumberbeart, 20-1 Shiftaty

LIVE COMMENTARIES TELLS

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Home counties pair put their Midlands rivals to the sword to reach Lord's final

Bicknell on the button for Surrey

HENRY BLOFELD reports from The Oval Surrey 308-8 Leicestershire 178 Surrey win by 130 runs

England's recent pre-match planning has extended to Martin Bicknell, whose two Tests were against Australia four years ago. In his 10 overs at the start of Leicestershire's innings, he bowled an excellent line at fast-medium, finding movement both ways and took 4 for 41.

This effectively ended Leicestershire's interest in the competition, although it would anyway have needed some remarkable batting if they were to have won. Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe, the engine room of the Surrey batting, had made a Leicestershire victory unlikely with a splendid third-wicket stand of 158 in 32 overs after they had been put in.

Leicestershire had to get off to a good start and they achieved it only insofar as Vince Wells played a lovely cover drive for four in Bicknell's first over. In his second, Darren Maddy played forward to one which left him and was caught behind.

Bicknell, now 28, bowled within himself and with excellent control, keeping the ball up to the bat and bringing the bats-men on to the front foot where they will always be more vulnerable against the new ball when there is any movement.

James Whitaker, who must have regretted his decision to field, also began with a joyful cov-er drive off Bicknell, but he came forward again to drive the last ball of his fifth over with bat away from pad, and was bowled off the inside edge. That was 28 for 2, and one run later Neil Johnson pushed forward to Chris Lewis

and was caught behind.

The score became 32 for 4 when Aftab Habib played a stroke, if one can call it that,

booby prize. Bicknell, for once. bowled a short one outside the off-stump, Habib stepped across and hung out a limp and pur-poseless bat and gave Thorpe catching practice at first slip.
Wells and Greg MacMillan.

who once came down the pitch and smashed Bicknell through extra cover, played a few good strokes. Then, at 68, MacMillan was leg before, haif-forward to Ian Salisbury, and, in his last over, Bicknell brought one back which nipped between Wells' bat and pad and hit middle and off. There was no way back for Leicestershire after that.

As it happened, their inning went on longer than it should have done, largely because Thor-pe, of all people, put down an ab-surdly easy catch at extra cover from Paul Nixon off Ben Hollioake when he was 20. Nixon and Tim Mason stayed to put on 75 cheap and cheerful runs for the ninth wicket, with Nixon going past 50 before Thorpe made amends with two good catches.

Surrey did not begin well either. In the first over after a istair Brown flashed at Alan Mullally outside the off-stump and was caught behind. Ben Hollioake announced himself with a square drive and a straight drive off David Millns, but then he bit a lazy on-drive against Mul-lally into the pit of Whitaker's stomach at mid-on. If he had gone through with the stroke, the ball would probably have landed somewhere between Vauxhall and Victoria stations.

Fortunately for Surrey, Stewart and Thorpe now began to bat exactly where they had left off at Edgbaston. Their stand of 158 was the highest for Surrey's third wicket in the competition. push it along even faster and the innings ended with some terrific strokes by Adam Hollioake, whose 63 came from 40 balls with four fours and two sixes. It which would have won the day's hands in more ways than one.

Duckworth-Lewis under fire

Sussex are lodging an official complaint with the English Cricket Board following their farcical Sunday League defeat at Durham this week. The county faced a revised target of 80 in four overs under the complex Duckworth-Lewis system after torrential rain caused a 100minute delay to the match at Chester-le-Street.

Sussex, who lost by 62 runs, are also furious that the 10th over of their innings, the number necessary to ensure a result, was howled as the heavens opened. Their chief executive, Tony Pigott, said: "The target proved that the Duckworth-Lewis system doesn't work and we played in torrential rain when we should have been off the park."



art is stumped by Leicestershire's Paul Nixon for 87 in Surrey's semi-final victory at The Oval yesterday

Kent at a canter

reports from Canterbury Kent 206-8 Northamptonshire 140 Kent win by 66 runs

A magnificent display of outcricket by Kent gave them a comfortable and deserving victory. Needing 207 for victory, Northamptonshire made a complete bash of chasing a moderate target, never really overcoming the loss of three early wickets as the home side bowled and fielded with purpose and guile. Kent now meet Sur-rey in the final on 12 July, their second Lord's appearance in three years.

The one-sided nature of this contest came as something of a surprise after Kent, batting poorly, made a total that looked 30 runs light of being competitive. But while both sides had players missing through injury

– Mohammad Akram and David Capel for Northamptonshire and Graham Cowdrey for Kent - the tricky pitch,

bounce never allowed the batsmen to settle, meant that Northamptonshire were always chasing the game once Dean Headley had reduced them to 34 for 3 in the 10th over.

Sensing capitulation, the visitors' captain, Rob Bailey, embarked on a severe period of retrenchment in which two runs were scored off 28 balls. It was not the way to keep the run chase ticking over, and the pressure created from such a dilatory scoring rate eventually did for Tony Penberthy, brilliantly caught at slip by Alan Wells, as well as Bailey himself, ing a wide one.

Kent's catching was simply outstanding, a feature exempli-fied by the diving catch made by Matthew Walker off Headley to get rid of the dangerous Kevin Curran. Walker is a chunky figure in the manner of a young Gatting, but there was undeniable grace, too, as he pulled down

the sharp chance at mid-off. With substantial inroads having been made, Paul Strang, playing with a broken little finger, mopped up the later order. Extracting a fair amount of

never comfortable.

Rugby Union

Jack Rowell, the England

coach, has selected his strongest

possible squad to face Aus-

tralia in Sydney on 12 July. The

36-man party will see England's

original squad for the recent Ar-

genting tour reinforced by the

return of several Lions from the

Mike Catt, the Bath stand-

off, and lock Nigel Redman are

recalled by Rowell, having left

England's tour last week to

join the Lions as replacements.

Rodman goes

walkabout in

Las Vegas

tour of South Africa.

Australians already reaching for Reiffel

Paul Reiffel may be thrown straight into today's match against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge amid growing concerns among Australia's management about the form of their bowling attack.

The 31-year-old pace bowler, a surprise omission from the original party having taken 19 wickets in three Tests on his previous. visit, was due to arrive yesterday to reinforce the tourists after in-

to no time to acclimatise. Already without Andy Bichel so son Gillespie broke down with a hamstring injury at Edgbaston and all-rounder Greg Blewett was unable to bowl because of

Furthermore, bowlers Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne both disappointed in the first Test, leaving coach Geoff Marsh with little option but to throw the jet-lagged Reiffel in today.
"We will obviously talk to

how he is," Marsh said. "We feel practice out in the middle is probably better than just rolling his arm over in the nets. If he is going to be available for selection at Lord's, he is going to need a couple of games under his belt."

Gillespie, restricted to just 10 overs at Edgbaston, is virtually certain to miss the game today and unless he responds to treatment could also be sidelined for this weekend's trip to Leicester, Australia's final match prior to

rest himself while Blewett will Ricky Ponting time at the crease. wicket-keeping duties from Ian

Jet-set life such a trial for Norman

ANDY FARRELL reports from Washington

While Tiger Woods took an already frenzied gallery on an early morning tour of the Congressional. Greg Norman was saying how much he has enjoyed the arrival of a new superstar on the arrival of a new supersiar on planet golf. Presumably, be-cause it allows Norman to get on with his life. You know, like buying a new jet and visiting; your mate downtown in the White House.

lee's

Hard as he tries, the 42-year-old Australian, still rated the No 1 golfer in the world by the official rankings, cannot stay out of the headlines. On Sunday, at the Kemper Open, Norman gestured in none too polite a fashion at a spectator, who he thought had said: "Chunk it in the water". The day before, Norman tore a strip off the first tee announcer, who told the gallery politely to decline any offer to see the Shark's tro-

This was a reference to President Bill Clinton's accident at Norman's home earlier this year, in which he injured a knee. Norman suddenly developed a publicity shyness over the incident and yesterday, apart from smarting over being described in the Washington.
Post as "that ill-tempered Aussie" and "Mr Sensitivo", was doing a bit of spin doctoring.

The President says he feels great and he's lost 30 pounds, which he thanked me for," Norman said. "A couple of his staff came up to me and said: "That's the best thing that 'That's the best thing that ever happened to him. Don't worry about it because it slowed him

about it because it stowed inindown for a couple of months."

The Norman family popped
into the White House on Monday and got a personalised tour
from the big chief. "My children
are US chizens and it was a wondestal destal and it was a wondestal destal and it was a wondestal destal destal and it was a wonderful day for my family," Norman said. Not even Morgan-Leigh and Greg Inr could believe it when their inther told them he was about to buy a new plane, a Bocing 737-700 costing \$32m (£20m), not including the \$6m worth of refinements to add an office. bedrooms for himself and his

staff and a work-out area. Part of the cost will be offset man, who reckons he travels 10 times around the world every year, will become a roving ambassador for Boeing Business Jets. As for his present G4 Gulfstream, Norman might try to sell that to Ian Woosnam, with whom he is paired tomorrow. Costantino Rocca, of Italy. will not be teeing off on Thursday, however, after withdrawing due to an unspecified muscle l injury.

Men at work.



(See above).



Benson and Hedges Cup

Kent v Northa CANTERBURY: Kent won by 66 numb. KENT M V Pleming c Walton b Follett M J Walter c Warren b Follett D P Fuiton c Emburey b Taylor ...

Page 11. Carlo D W Headley.
Bid not hair D W Headley.
Bowling: Teylor 10.1-31-2: Rollett 5-0-30-2: Carlon 5-0-27-0; Perbertly 10-1-34-1; Emburey 10-1-35-1; Srape 10-0-40-0.

Surrey v Leicestershire

Did not but: Saciam Mushcan

Bowling: Mulasly 10-0-53-2; Milins 7-0-43-0; Wells 8-0-38-1; Johnson 7-0-58-2: Mason 10-0-55-1; Oslon 8-0-54-0.

Football WORLD CUP GROUP EIGHT leatand v Littavania (9:0) (at Laugardalsvöllur stadium, Reykjavik) TOURNOI DE FRANCE

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH: Gauteng Libres v Libres (6.15)

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

9-171.
Bewling Beknell 10-2-41-4; Lews 10-0-28-1 Salsoury 10-0-47-2: B Hollicake 5-0-24-1 Sagon Mustica 8-1-21-0; A Hollicake 2-3-0-11-2 Gold sewent M P Belonell (Surrey, Umplines: J W Holder and R Juhan.

Costcutter Cup Semi-final Durham v Scotland Scotland won tors

DURHAM J J B Lews c and 5 Beven

Uniplines: D J Constant and J H Hams,
AON RESK IROPHY (One day): Either Valle: Somerest 112 (A R Butcher 5-25); Glemorgan 116
for 4, Glasmorgian won by six wickers. Shenley
Parks MCC Young Conserves 313 for 9 (S D Peters 95). MCC won by 40 runs. Stenforts Mddieser 265 for 4 (D J Goodchid 85ms, K P Dutch
54, D C Nash 52ms; Manor Cournes 229 (R G
Alignett 102: 7 Bloomfeld 6-45). Middlesses won
by 36 runs. Worksop College Duthom 178 (D
A Bernitron 52): Notamprensione 180 for 1 (6 E
Walton 90no). Nottinghamable won by nine
wickets.

Starting today TETLEY'S CHALLENGE SERIES (First day three, 11.0): Trent Bridge: Notangarmster

COSTCUTIER CUP Plant (One day, 11.0): Harrogate: Durism v Gousesserphie.

SECOND XI CHANPIONSHIP (First day of times, 11.0): Rocester (Abbotsholine School): Dehyshae v Modicese. Weldowle Seev v Leosesershire. Annanaturet: Garmorgen v Nortinghambus: Plactadopateach: Hampetine v Northemptorshire. Sentispert: Langeshire v Northemptorshire. Sentispert: Langeshire v Cloucesserphie. Cheene Surry Woccestershire. Neueatton (Griff & Cottop): Welcestershire. Neueatton (Griff & Cottop): Welcestershire.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Speedway
ELITE LEAGUE: King's Lynn v Eastbourne (7.45).
PREMIER LEAGUE: Hull v Glesgov (7.30): Long
Enton v Oxford (7.30).
INDIVIDUAL: Battle of Britain Trophy (Poole). Other sports (Crusen say).

SWRMAND: Scottch Championships (Gasgow)

TENNIS: Stata Artos men's burnament (Queen'
Club, London): DFS Classic women's tournamen

turn, the leg-spinner lured Tim Walton and David Sales into injudicious shots. The day began with a damp

patch at one end of the pitch after an overnight storm had leaked under the covers. But although it was too full really to come into play Kent, having been put in by Bailey, batted as if it was a primeval swamp. In particular, their running between the wickets was careless to the point of recklessness, and both Trevor Ward and Nigel Llong were run out as Kent lost

It was not good cricket, especially from Ward whose forceful 78 had done so much to get Kent, at one stage listing on 63 for 4, back into the game. His effort was not a solo one, however, and he had a staunch ally in Mark Ealham who scored a vital 46. Together the pair added 100 for the fifth wicket, a stand that later proved decisive, on a day when batting was

juries to three key players. But Reiffel will be given next

a long-standing knee problem.

Paul when he gets here to see Brendon Julian and Reiffel.

Scottish Rugby Union offi-cials have secured a £500,000

three-year agreement with BBC

Scotland on domestic broad-

casting rights for club rugby. The

deal includes coverage of club league and cup matches, the Eu-

ropean qualifying tournament and Scotland internationals

against, for example. Fiji, Italy, Argentina or Western Samoa.

shut out Ireland's tourists in the

second half to secure a com-

fortable 41-10 win in Palmerston

North. The Maoris outscored

their opponents by four tries to

The New Zealand Maoris

the second Test at Lord's. "We are not 100 per cent sure about Jason, but I don't think he which will probably rule him out for the Test match," Marsh said. Mark Taylor has decided to

have further treatment on his injury to allow Michael Slater and Adam Gilchrist will take over Healy, while both Warne and Michael Kasprowicz also drop out to allow the returns of Bichel,

one in a stop-start match played in constant drizzle. The frequent

whistling of Southland referee Paul MacFie also contributed to

a disappointing spectacle. The

official frustrated the Irishmen.

who found themselves on the

wrong end of a penalty count

every breakdown.

Saracens), M Dewson (Northampton), A Go-mersell (Wespa), A Healey (Lencester), Proper D Garforth (Lencester), K Yates (Beth), Hoole-ers: R Cockerti (Lencester), P Greening (Golucester), M Regam (Brstol), Locks: M Haag (Beth), M Johnson (Lencester), N Red-man (Bath), M Johnson (Lencester), N Red-man (Bath), B Cante (Fortmond), M Cor-ry (Brstol), Dallagillo (Wespa), R Hill (Sera-cens), No 8s: T Diprose (Saracens), T Rodber (Northampson), C Sheasby (Wespa),

and were in trouble at virtually EVETY DIPEARLIUWII.

ENGLAND SQUAD (v Australia, Sydney, 12
Ady; Pall-backer T Stimpson (Newcasie Facors, N Beal (Northampton), Wingse A Adehayo (Batth), J Stelgitholme (Batth), R
Underwood (Newcastie), Centres: P de
Ganville (cart, Bath), N Greenstock (Wasps),
W Parenwood (Lenester), J Guscott (Bath),
Stand-offs: M Catt (Bath), P Grayson
(Northampton), A King (Wasps), M Magnichaft
(Gloucester), Scrum-halfs: K Bracken company Pilkington has ended

Basketball

Dennis Rodman has upset his Chicago Bulls team-mates after heading off for Las Vegas fol-lowing the defeat on Sunday that left the Bulls tied at 2-2 against Utah Jazz in the NBA finals.

Scottie Pippen was not too happy, for one. "We don't have any control of what Dennis does off the court," he said. You would think that he would want to start to look and evaluate what's going on on the court with himself, but it's his preference what he wants to do after the game."
The Bulk' coach, Phil Jackson,

some steam."

do that," he said.

and was relaxing. I got rid of this

bad taste in my mouth. I had to

said: "I didn't endorse where he went. I thought maybe he was going to the state line. He made it beyond that. Dennis is the kind of person that needs to blow off Rodman made no apologies. I went out and had a good time

> over Bradford. The

Blease plans appeal against life ban

Rowell names strongest squad

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The Salford forward Ian Blease, is to appeal against the severity of his life ban from the game. The former Salford captain was banned sine die last week for striking a touch judge during an Alliance game at Bradford.

After discussions with his club and solicitors over the weekend, Blease has decided to appeal for more lenient treatment in view of his good disciplinary record in over a decade as a professional.

Two players in the World Club Championship, Anthony Swann of Auckland and Penrith's Man Adamson, have been banned for one game. Swann was placed on report for use of the knee on St Helens' Andy Haigh last Friday, while Adamson was reported for a high tackle during Monday night's victory

Bradford coach,

Matthew Elliott, is another who could be facing disciplinary action. Elliott publicly criticised the referee, David Campbell, after the Penrith game for his lenient attitude to some persistent high tackling from the Australian side. The director of referees. Greg McCallum is privately furious that Elliott, in

again and the Bulls coach could face a heavy fine. McCallum has also instructed referees in the World Club Championship to administer the laws at the play-the-ball more strictly. Coaches of British sides have been complaining that Australasian teams have been getting away with illegal-

trouble before for similar re-

ities in this area. The St Helens captain, Bobbie Goulding, is out of the rest of the first phase of the World Club Championship. Goulding has decided to bring forward an operation on a hernia that has troubled him for some time,

■ The glass manufacturing its nine-year sponsorship deal with the Rugby Football Union, after offering to withdraw from the remaining two years of its contract if an alternative company wished to step in.

> TODAY'S NUMBER £10,000

The size of the bet placed yes terday on Tiger Woods to win terday on Tiger Woods to win-the US Open, which begins tomorrow. The bet placed by a punter in Southend, im-mediately led balbrokes to cut-the odds from 5.1 to 4.1, and is is the fargest on golf ever placed with Edibrokes.





ROUND UP

Adela's fir

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Stone may not be ready for action until October

Football

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TOMMY STANIFORTH

Nottingham Forest's England midfielder Steve Stone is undergoing a spell at the Football Association's rehabilitation centre at Lilleshall as he tries to recover from a persistent knee injury.

Stone has been out of action since suffering a freak injury against Leicester at the City

snapped patella tendon forced him to miss Forest's vain fight against relegation. He has already ruled out the possibility of a return to action in time for the 1997-98 kick-off in August but is now stepping up his re-

habilitation programme. Stone said: "I am hoping to join in with the pre-season work with the rest of the lads but you are probably realistically looking at September or October before I am available to play Ground last September and a first-team football."

Stone's enforced absence was one reason for Forest's demise, but he is confident they have the ambition and spending power to make a strong push for an instant return to the top flight.

The Nigel Wray, Phil Soar and Irving Scholar consortium made £17m available for new signings when they took charge in February and the only major outlay so far has been £4.5m for the striker Pierre van Hooijdonk from Celtic, Stone added: "The club didn't spend all the moncy that was available before the transfer deadline in March because they didn't want to get in people who maybe they didn't want in the long run. But Pierre van Hooijdonk looked a good acquisition and we are hoping the club will bounce back as

Lile Isla

appointment of relegation." The Birmingham City manager, Trevor Francis, must wait until next month to see if his club-record £2.5m bid for the Stoke striker, Mike Sheron, has

quickly as possible from the dis-

been successful. Stoke will not committing themselves to new do any transfer business until they have appointed a successor to Lou Macari as manager at the Victoria Ground.

Coates, said: "Mike is still a Stoke player and we have made the position quite clear. We have had offers for him, but the matter will be left until we have appointed a new manager,"

The Derby County manager, Jim Smith, has received a welcome boost with two players

long-term deals at the club. The defender Gary Rowett, 23, has signed a new four-year deal while the 25-year-old midfield-Stoke's chairman. Peter er Paul Trollope has signed a contract which will keep him with

the Rams until the year 2000. Aston Villa's record signing, Stan Collymore, will make his first appearance for the club in this country in a pre-season friendly against Wycombe Wanderers at Adams Park on 18

a bumper crowd for the Second Division club as Villa (ans travel down the M40 to see Brian Little's £7m signing from Liverpool for the first time.

Collymore has already worn a Villa shirt when he appeared - and scored - during their end of season tour of the United States last month. Wycombe are managed by the former Villa coach, John Gregory, who saved the club from relegation last season, and Little said: "It July. The appearance of Colly-

should be a nice way for Stan to start his career in this country." Villa have away games against Partick Thistle and Motherwell, while on 28 July they play at Kidderminster Harriers in a testimonial for the GM Vauxhall

Conference club's long-serving manager, Graham Aliner. Little, meanwhile, will return from holiday in Spain at the end of the week to step up his plans to bring in further new blood - he has around £15m at his disposal.

Lee's feat keeps Henman company

MATT TENCH reports from Queen's Club

On the day that Tim Henman reached the third round of a tournament for the first time in nearly four months, his thunder was stolen by a Briton three years his junior for whom playing in any round of a senior tournament is something of a

Martin Lee is 19, supports Milwail, and sports a yellow and blue shirt that gives football kit manufacturers a bad name. If you saw him in the street you might think he was a callow teenager who looked at the ground too much. But the Londoner was the best young player in the world a year ago, has a brilliant natural talent, and after a period of adjustment is usthe Stella Artois

Championships to announce it to his elders, but not necessarily betters. On Monday he beat Andrei Olhovskiy, the Russian grass-court specialist who is ranked 354 places above him at 146. That victory was Lee's best for precisely 24 hours, because he yesterday dispatched the American Alex O'Brien, the world No 34, to claim an unlikely place in the third round. Much more of this and Henman and Greg Rusedski may soon have another Briton joining them in the game's upper reaches.

As has become his custom,

Lee indulged in the sophisticated psychological ploy of dropping the first set against

O'Brien, though yesterday's 6-3 reverse was hardly in Monday's 6-0 class in the false sense of security stakes. O'Brien, for whom the word solid summed up his appearance and his game, took the set gratefully, vociferously supported by a small group in the front row for whom there appears to be a

small corner of a foreign field that will be forever Texas. Lee responded by breaking O'Brien in the first game of the second set, but was immediately broken back, and while the left-hander displayed a far greater range of shots, O'Brien's experience prevented a second breakthrough. The crucial moment came with Lee trailing 0-30 at 5-5 when the umpire overruled a line call which would have granted the American three break points. O'Brien was infuriated, but Lee kept his

cool and won the next four

points. "That really geed me

up." Lee said. And he went on

to win the tie-break. After another exchange of breaks in the final set, Lee, who like just about every other British tennis player these days looks like he could do with a square meal or two, made a decisive move at 4-4 when a lovely running backhand converted his third break point. He served out comfortably and his 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 victory was greeted with raucous applause on Court One, though O'Brien left still complaining bitterly about the

overrule. "I'm getting mentally tougher," Lee said. "In quite a

lot of matches I've been very close and lost 6-4 in the third. But I felt very confident today." Henman was one of many fellow countrymen impressed by

Lee's performances this week. They show a lot of character. This is a breakthrough for him," Having begun the week with

46 points, Lee will soar up the rankings having already gained another 34 here. His next opponent is likely to be Goran Ivanisevic, against whom Henman had just one piece of advice: "Hold your own serve."

Henman himself adopted the Lee route to victory, dropping the first set before beating Andrew Richardson 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. It was a welcome return to form for the 22-year-old who has struggled since his elbow injury, losing three out of four matches on clay. In his fellow Briton, Henman

knew he faced an opponent who knew his game intimately from the hours the two have spent on the practice court together. They are old friends, and even ate together beforehand, but once the match started neither betrayed any sign of undue amiability. "Out there, it's business." Henman said.

Business went Richardson's way early on but once H*e*nman had adapted to the blustery conditions his sharper volleying brought a comfortable victory. With Henman and Lee through Briton had two players in the third round for the first time in the history of these champi-



Martin Lee fires a return at Alex O'Brien on his way to victory at Queen's Club yesterday

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Transfer row for **Venables**

Terry Venables is facing another controversy, which could conceivably cost him his job as the Soccer Australia coach, after allegations he was involved in transfers of Australian internationals to Portsmouth, a club he is chairman of and partly owns.

Several Australian clubs are to draft letters of complaint to the Soccer Australia board alleging a conflict of interest by Venables. The clubs are citing a 1994 report about alleged corruption in transfer dealings. The report, written by Donald Stewart, a former Supreme Court judge, incorporates a Soccer Australia code of conduct of that covers players and officials. Any breach of it is subject to disciplinary action. In part it says squad members, including coaches, shall not involve themselves in any way in transfers of any player eligible to play for Australia to an overseus club.

Portsmouth are believed to be buying at least three members of the Australian national squad, including the former Leicester and Wolves goalkeeper, Zeljko Kalac, the midfielder Robert Enes, the utility player Hamilton Thorp, and, possibly, a defender, Matthew Bingley. The Pompey manager, Terry Fenwick. watched the players on videotapes given to him by Venables. who said: "There's no conflict in me being chairman of Pompey and coach of the Australian national side. Terry Ferwick has made the decisions on these players. I just sent him some tapes and he looked over them.

The letters of complaint will be discussed by the Soccer Australia board later this month.

Adela's fine figure in dress rehearsal

STUART ALEXANDER

It was almost the same as 146 years ago in the Solent yesterday as, in solitary splendour, the 170ft schooner Adela powered her way to the Royal Yacht Squadron finishing line at Cowes after racing round the Isle of Wight. In time-honoured tradition there was no second. the next boat being but a shape appearing out of the gloom, inites behind at Yarmouth.

On the wheel was America's best-known skipper. Dennis Conner, at his shoulder Britam's Peter Bateman, and strewn all over the lovingly laid teak decks, and in the warmly teanelled interior below, were tearly 50 crew and guests.

There was little to console the British in 1851 when the schooner America, on 27 August, beat the best of Britannia to win the 100-guinea cup that was to be turned by the New York Yacht Club into the Amer-

She, too, won easily in a project to prove that the new world could beat the old. At least Adela was built in Britain, recently restored at the Pendennis shipyard in Falmouth and modified from the 1903 version designed by William Storey and

built at Northam, Southampton. In a grandstand finish, beating along the green into 12 knots just south of east, the towering sails made the houses seem small as the cannon signalled a time of 6hr 4min. It was over an hour before the next yacht, the 135ft Sariyah finished. The next pair, the 183ft three-masted Adix, built in Spain in 1984, and the 135ft Mariette, built by Nat Herreshoff, were separated by 69 years in age but only 62sec on the water and Mariette start-

ed 20min after Adix. Rich men's placings, it seems, do not change. But this time the replica of the schooner America was last of the nine to complete the east-about 50-mile course in what was also a dress rehearsal for a 150th anniversary race in 2001.

American pair may defy IAAF

Athletics

Mary Slaney and Sandra Parmer-Patrick, who have been suspended by the International Amateur Athletic Federation for alleged drug use, may both still compete in the US Championships which begin today at Indiana University.

Slaney has been entered in the 1500 metres and 3,000m, while Farmer-Patrick is due to run the 400m hurdles. They con-

Carlos Sainz, of Spain, raced

into contention for a third

world championship title yes-

terday when Juha Kankkunen

was ordered to pull over to let

his senior Ford team-mate win

the Acropolis Rally in Greece.

Sainz crossed the line for his

first victory this season, beating

the Finn, who had led for most

of the race, by 17 seconds.

test the ruling by the IAAF, but definitely, I will declare [for the ed his innocence and is applyif USA Track and Field, the governing body in America, denies them the right to compete they could go to court. If USATF al- team for the World Champilows Slaney or Farmer-Patrick to enter, the IAAF might threaten to suspend any athlete who competes against them. "I have not yet made a deci-

sion," Slaney, who has been carabout that other stuff." Farmer-Patrick was more certain. "Most

and it is a wonderful day for

everyone in the team." Sainz.

the world champion in 1990 and

Britain's Richard Burns, in a

Mitsubishi, was initially given

third place, but was later

dropped to back to fourth be-hind the reigning world champ-

ion, Tommi Makinen, after

Sainz's victory saw him close

to within 14 points of the current

incurring two time penalties.

meeting]," she said. "I hope they will allow me to compete." The meeting determines the US onships in Athens in August.

The British shot putter Paul Edwards, banned and sent home from the 1994 Commonwealth Games after failing a drugs test, will find out on Friday whether rying an injury, said. "My leg's he can return to international feeling better, but I'm not sure competition in preparation for

the World Championships. Edwards has always protest-

"This result proves many things leader, Makinen, in a Mitsubishi bank on the fourth stage. On the and it is a wonderful day for and left him four behind another second day, though, he set the everyone in the team," Sainz, Briton, Colin McRae, after eight fastest time on six of the day's

Briton, Colin McRae, after eight

rounds of the championship.

ond stage and Makinen's tyre

second day left the way open for

Ford's and Sainz's first win since

Sainz had spent much of the

rally behind Kankkunen, after home second to give Ford their

losing more than a minute on first one-two since the Rally of

the first day when he slid into a Portugal in 1993.

Indonesia last year.

SPORTING DIGEST

McRae's retirement on the sec-

ing to the High Court to allow him to return 14 months early. Edwards is claiming it was illegal for him to be treated dif-ferently to German and French athletes who have been reinstated under their own national laws after just two years of

initial four-year bans. Liz McColgan is to attempt to break the British 10 mile record in this year's BUPA Great South Run in Portsmouth on 5 October.

seven stages to start the final leg

The Spaniard reduced that

37 seconds behind Kankkunen

Kankkunen lets Sainz through to win

La Stampa is controlled by the Agnelli family, which also owns Fiat, the car manufacturer. and its Ferrari subsidiary. Ecclestone said the number

he told La Stampa. Formula One constructors' ti-

Europe eight races' tles - including four of the last

Motor racing

Growing pressure to ban tobacco advertising could cost western Europe all but four of its Formula One races, including the two in Italy, according to the Formula One impresario, Bernie Ecclestone.

"Italy will lose Monza and Imola, but without these sponsors all courses are in danger of in Europe gained momentum dying," Ecclestone said in an interview published Tuesday in the Turin newspaper La Stampa.

of Formula One races in west-

ern Europe could dwindle to from 12 to four if tobacco companies are prohibited from ad-

and driveshaft problems on the second day left the way open for to move to within 16 seconds of vertising.
"Without this financing, the lead on the 18th stage, before Kankkunen allowed him to take the lead. The Finn came

some major teams couldn't continue their sporting activities, Williams, who have won eight

five, has Rothmans eigarettes as its title sponsor, and Marlboro sponsors the annual Grand Prix Guide.

Few other industries, Ecclestone added, can afford to spend as much as the tobacco companies. "If they have to abandon the field, it would be a disaster," he said.

The anti-smoking movement recently when the new Labour government pledged to ban tobacco advertising in Britain. Ecclestone has been waging a counter-offensive, warning of the dire consequences for Europe of the loss of tobacco sponsorship.

"We have the right to cancel any [Formula One] race when the running of the race, for whatever reason, is put in danger,' said Ecclestone, who is also a vice president of the international motor-racing federation. the FIA. "In a case where the sponsors would no longer get a decent return, we'd have to re-

Top players make return to the Pyramids

sulted in unprecedented media attention which helped make it the sport's richest tournament. The event received even more

attention when Egypt's top play-er, Ahmed Barada, then only 19 and a wild-card entry, beat the world No 2, Rodney Eyles, and the No 7, Chris Walker, on his way to the final. But he was beat-

en in straight games in the final by Jansher Khan who is favourite to retain his title.

He is scheduled to meet Eyles in this year's final, although the Australian is on course to play Barada again in the last eight. Scotland's Peter Nicol, the No 3 seed, is drawn to face Eyles in the semi-finals.

Desmond Witbool, the South African marathon runner, has been banned for four years after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. Witbool, 24, failed a drugs test after finishing fifth in February's Cape Town marathon, He represented South Africa at the 1996 African Marathon Championships. Affician Maratinor Champiorishps for peo-ple with learning disabilities will be held in Leeds on Saturday 28 June. Sever-al members of the British Paralympic team that competed in Atlanta last year will be among the competitors at South

BAGENGUM LENGUE: Belemore 10 Chicago White Sox 2; Anshorm 12 Kansas Chy 5. MATIONAL LEAGUE: Los Angeles 8 Houston 3; New York Mets 4 Chiciman 2; Montreel 6 Chica-go Cubs 5; Colorado 8 Adenta 3; St Louis 9 San Diego 1; San Francisco 7 Florido 4.

and the United States, is the Inst Septing by the Giarns' newly appointed head coach, Jim Brandon.

wollen's Europeen ChampionSHP Final roand (finalphy) Group A (Zalanghusagithiban 73 Unitany 70. Broup B (Peca); Russa 68 Moldon 53.

TOUR MATCH (St. lobars, Antique) Second day of three St. Lakes 192 for 6 dec and 213 for 1 (R Amold 104ng; M Azagettu 90no); Leaward Istands 148 (M Murakhyran 4-34).

chayle Auton Unity: Warencishere 182 for 9 (A Thomas 4-33): Locastershere 184 for 3 (D Severes 7 Ino) Laidostershire wan by sowen wickeds. Easthourne: New 177 (R W Y Ney 56; 1) Bartes 5-421; Susset 181 for 5 () P Pyemort 52, T A Radiord Stroyl Sensett won by flow wick-52, TA Region Stroj Sesses won by the wide-ets. Old Trafford: Yorkshee 266 for 7 IA Mc-Grath 78): Lenceshire 180 (N T Wood 50) Yorkshire won by 86 mms.

Cycling
DAUPHNE LEGGE RACE First stage (187km, Garanbile to Yilleuwheese): 1, D Abdudraparov (Libbé), Lottel Ahr 21,mn 47sec; 2 G Lombards T. Teleborni: 3 F Moncason (F. GANI; 4 G Fiscer (Can, Mulpués Same et Marne); 5 P Gaumort (F., Cohdes); 8 N Islaibert (F., Cohdes): 7 S Barthe (F., Casnos); 8 A Bath (L. Lis Possal; 9 J Neers (Netr. Rabotenis): 10 D Nazon (F., Françase des Jeux) als zame time, Leuding overall standingts: 2 C Boardman (CB, GAN) 4hr 27mn 37set; 2 A Zide (Setz, DNC) + 3sec; 3 V Valumov (Rus, US Possal); 4 P Gaumort (F., Cohdes) total same time; 5 A Olaho (Se, Baresto) + 7; 7 E Detker (Neth, Rabobard) same time; 8 A Bath (L. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 8 A Bath (R. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 8 A Bath (R. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 8 A Bath (R. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 8 A Bath (R. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 8 A Bath (R. US Possal) + 8 L Bonchard (F., Festral) same time; 80 M Boogled (Neth, Rabobard)

Football

Football
Begron have submitted plans for a £25m sports and leisure complex on counci-owned planng fields on the outskirts of the town. The ambitious development at Waterhall, currently occupied by Brighton rugby club, is arred at building a multi-purpose stadium for the whole community. A 15,000 all-seat stadium, eventually rising to a capacity of 25,000, could become the new shared home for the Seaguils, but they have yet to secure a ground for next season.

Hereford Linited have submitted wave.

to South Herefordshire District Council to build a £5m 10,000 all-seat stadi-

city. United, relegated from the Foot-ball League last month, would need to spend £2.5m to upgade their Edgar Street ground to meet League re-quirements if they were to win the GM Vauxhall Conterence.

PORTUGUESE CUP Final (Liebon): Bentica 2 (Calado 35, El-Hadrous 70; Bostista 3 Csenchez 7, pen 65, Gomes 30). MONDAYE LUTE RESULTE Major Langue Societe. Reness Cey Wazards 3 Sen José Clash 2; New England Revolution 0 Los Angeles Galany 0 (Resolution win shoot out 2-1).

WOMEN'S WORLD RANGEMES: 1.A Sovenstam (Swe) 489.72; 2.L Denats (GB) 445.82; 3 K Weth (Aust 413.80; 4 K Rothers (US) 25.13; 5 L Reumann (Swe) 25.69; 6 D Repper (US) 27.15; 7 M McGarm (US) 209.44; 8 J Geddes (US) 189.20; 9 E Niem (US) 15-6.46; 10 M Mellon (US) 152.51; 11 A Fukeschana (Japan) 152.03; Selectud; 13 T Johnson 45.45; 17 L Nacionay 122.48; 19 A Kicholas 114.00; 34 J Morky 87.78.

Railying
AGROPOUS RALLY (Athens, 6r) Landing 8rul positions: 1 C Sam: (Sp) Ford 4th 56min
24set; 2 J Randomen Fint Ford 45541; 3 T
Maistane (Fin) Missubsts 501:27: 4 R Burns
(GB) Missubsts 501:31: 5 T Radstrom (Swe)
Toyona 504:11; 6 U Nitel (Ge) Missubsts
506:28: 7 G do Menas (Be) Ford 507:49;
8 Y Satura (Japan) Sussu 5:11:15; 9 A Voyos
(C) Subara 5:12:05; 10 L Kirkes (Gr) Ford
5:14:33

Rugby League VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP Pool A: Bradford Bulls (16) 18, Pendith (6) 21. Brad-ford: Fries Pescock, Scales, Soruce Books Mo-Names 2. Pendith: Tibes Brown, Domis, Griller, Jorgerson; Goals Griller 2. (14,378).

Rugby Union INTERNATIONAL MARCH (Cape Town): South Africa 74 Yorga 10.

Monica Seles has made a late entry into the Direct Line International Champion-ships which begin at Devonshire Park, Andrew Richardson, beaten by Tim Hen-man at Queen's Chub yesterday, is one of 11 British players who have been giv-en wild cards for the singles events at

6-3 7-6; K Lilyett (SA) br A Volicov (Rus.) 2-6 6-3
6-3: T Witcottendigs (Aus) bt J-A Marm Son 6-4
7-8: B Steven (W.2) bit M Goelmer (Gert 4-5, 6-1
6-4; D Floch (U.5) bt B Viscother (U.5) 6-4 6-1
6-4; D Floch (U.5) bt B Viscother (U.5) 6-4 6-1
6-5; D Floch (U.5) bt B Viscother (U.5)
3-6 7-6 6-4; T Hermien (Gib) 4-6 O'Bren (U.5)
3-6 7-6 6-3; J Winguschald (Ger) bt O Deisstre (Fr) 6-4 7-6. Doubles, first round (seelected); M Goelber (Gert and M Flock (Aus) 6-3 6-3; T Hermien (Ge) end P Samonas (U.5) bt A Kennov (Rus) and M Marques (Port 6-3 6-4.
GERIGARA GENESS-COURT TOURNAMENT (Flable)
Stogles, first round: Y Kaleinhiov (Rus) bt S Schalen (Resh) 6-0 6: T Hase (Gert bt B Lillmoch (Cr Rep) 6-1 6-2; N Kenter (Gert bt J Grabb (U.5)
6-3 6-2; B Becker (Gert bt A Raddieston (Ger)
7-6; H Soch (Gert bt Be Variancher (Ger) 4-6 7-5
6-2; H Drechmann (Gert bt F Stauder (Ger) 4-6 7-5
6-11 Muster (Pus) bt D Prinosi (Ger) 3-6 1-0
ret.

DES CLASSIC WOMEN'S GRASS-CORRET TOUR-NAMENT (Priory Cash, Ediginalized Strugtes, first towast: E Collers; Gibb) by C Morran, USS 6-3.4-6.8-8. N Archit (US) bt L Wittl (US) 6-3.4-6.8-8. L Goldens (ID) by C Morran, USS 6-3.4-6.3-8. M Oramans (Nesty) bt M Gazyloossia (Policy Cash) by College (Poli

The world's top players return to the sport's most spectacular setting today for the Al Ahram International championships in Camp. Last year's inaugural evenly staged on an open-air. illuminated court against the backgrop of the Pyramids, re-

REDCAR

RACING RESULTS

\$2.90; £5.80, £1.50, £1.20. DF; £54.80.
CSF; £380.44. This £36.10. NR: Lend A Hand.
4.90: 1. WHO'S THAT MAN (K Datey) 712. Spartly 9-2: 3. Touch'n' go 8-1: 4. Neelto 12-1. 17 rats. 7-2 for Presimation Rood (5th.
rk. 8. (S Wilsons). Tothe: £5.50; £1.60, £1.60,
£2.30. £2.70. DF; £34.80. CSF; £37.18. The
cent £255.70. This £43.90.
Place 8: £25.69. Place 8: £15.87.
Place 8: £25.69. Place 8: £15.87.
Place 8: £25.69. Place 8: £15.87.
\$ALISBURY
2.15: 1. PARESLAN LADY (N Variey) 23-1;

REDCAR

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Sweeney) 3-1; 2. Am

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Sweeney) 3-1; 2. Am

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Sweeney) 3-1; 2. Am

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Sweeney) 3-1; 2. Am

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Sweeney) 3-1; 2. Am

2.00: 1. Hand FEM (D Fortund) 11-2; 2. Md

Ony 11-2; 3. Benesten 8-1 9 rat, 11-4 few

Henry Bis Hand (Hill) - V, 14, (Ms. 1 Rams

dent. Todic 57.20; 52.10, 51.10, 52.00, 07:

62430, CSF, 531.82 Tricsct. 5218.45 Theo

1. 200: 1. BOYAL EXPRESSION (A Cultural)

3.00: 1. BOYAL EXPRESSION (A Cultural) Place 8: £25,69. Place at Exp.

SALISBLARY

2.15: 1. PARSSUM LADY (N Varies) 33-1;
2. Fayrama 6-1; 3. 2nd 12-1, 12 mm. 11-4;
law Patrics Olive (Sint. 24, 37). (A Newcombe).
Tobas: 196.70: £14-20, £2.30, £2.30, £2.30, £2.
£272,10. CSF: £202.57: Thor: not won £472.69 to Bewerley 3.00 todisy).
2.45: 1. SFALATEENO (I Sprain) 13-2; 2.
Dramotice Measure 20-1; 3. Lensely Heart 8.
Dramotice Section (SFE) £2.90, £2.80, £7.
Exp. 3. 11 to Vinessa (4th), hd, 174, £8.
Exp. 3. 15-8 bar; 3. Kewa-Bar; 2.1, 13 ran.
3. 174. (0 Creoped), Note: £24.00; £3.40, £1.50, £1.70, £7.50, CSF; £52.79, True: £20.10, NR: Cherrymentary. £123.70.
3.00: 1. BOYAL EXPRESSION (A Cultural)
11-10; 2. Good Hand 5-6 fax; 3. Languroff 1611-10; 2. Good Hand 5-6 fax; 3. Languroff 1615 tan, 24, 3. (Mrs M Rescho), Totac: £2.90;
£1.10, £1.40. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.12;
3.30: 1. BEST OF ALL & Derey) 6-1; 2.
3.30: 1. BEST OF ALL & Derey) 6-1; 2.
9. 30: £1.20 for all & Derey) 7- tets:
Beolus 5-1.10 fax; 24, 76, (J Berry), Tets:
\$2.00; £2.10, £2.30, £1.90. DF: £11.70. CSF:
£29.68: Messer £130.56. Tito: £22.10. Non
Rummanidoesi. P.2. (8. 76 mst. f 130.56. Tric. 2 Rumenlayed. 4.00-1. Cumentan Garaiso (Caroli) 25-4.00-1. Cumentan Garaiso (Caroli) 25-4; 2. Dorham Piyer 20-1; 3. Mountain Sons 8-11 le/, 13 mm. /s. stk-rd. (Teasinly). Total

3.48: 1. PURPLE FLIMS () Hollard 6-1; 2. Detta Solali 11-2; 3. Str Joay 9-4 tov. 8 ras. nk, 1% () GCottrell, Totas (B. 20; 52.00, 52.00, 51.40, 09: 521.80, CSF: £35.79, Til-

22.00, 21.40, by 22.00 (a Clark) 8-1; 2-county-season (a Clark) 8-1; 2-County-season (a)get 10-1; 3-10-1, 20 ras. 4-1 fas Sun of Sontg. 1/4, 1/4, (R Abetus SI, Totas £10.70; £2.60, £5.50, £1.30, £2.50, DF: £149.60, CSP. £82.10, Troost; £373.40, Troc.

EID, 420.83. Inst. 2014.00 today).
85.54.92 to Benefick 3.00 today).
8.15: 1. USA'S PRIDE (K Falori) 20-1; 2. Phone Alex 6-13 for; 3. Five Coddess 13-2. 11 res. ½, hd. [Mest Gay Relievary). Yota: 15.80; 63.10, E1.20, 62.40, DF: 93.20, CSF: 631.05. Troy 633.00. Jackpot: not won (£25,585,74 to Bayerley to-day). Pleaspot: £563,70. Quadpot: £8,40. | Place 8: £563,91. Place 5: £119,32.

Baskethall Manchester Glants yesterday signed the English forward Delme Herriman on a one-year contract. The 24-year-old, who has recently returned from playing in Italy and the United States, is the first sign-

Hereford United have submitted plans

Special way

AMATEUR EAGLE: Postponed: St Austril v Po-terborough. restaging Tuesday 17 Auro)

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Elite League:
Wolverhampton 51, Peterborough 39, Premier
League: Reading 49 Arena Essex 41.

Wimbledon, which begins on 23 June.
Mark Petchey, Chris Wilkinson, Danny
Sapstord and Luke Milligan for the men's
singles and Sam Smith, Shirti-Ann Skiddati, Claire Taylor, Lucie Ahi, Julie Pullin and Clare Wood for the women's singles. Pat Cash, the 1987 Wimbledon champion from Australia, has also been given a wild card for the quality-

Seen given a wild card for the qualify-ing competition at Roehampton.

STELLAMINGS CHAMPIONSIEP (Quant's Caid, London) Singles, first monot: D Nestor (Can) by F DeMail (Bell 6-7 6-4 6-2; S Black (Zim) br. N J Seongraft (Neth) 6-4 6-0; S Black (Zim) br. N Marques (Por) 6-4 7-6; C Poline (Fr) br. K Carbon Deal 7-5-46-5-2; D Debatter (Fr) br. H Holm (Sae) 6-1 6-7 8-1; J-P Reurion (Fr) br. J Gimelspob (US)

PRECYCLING Printer up states of A STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF



Cricket

The surge of patriotic put The surge of patriotic prices swelling the nation's collective breast in the wake of England's first Test defeat of Australiais driving cricket towards adopting a sporting ritual its traditions have curiously neglected—the national anthem. national anthem. Unlike football and nigby, in

which no international contest gets under way until the players have joined in an uplifting appeal for the continuing prosperity of the monarch, cricket is a game without fanfares. Even the grandest occasion at Lord's is heralded by nothing more remarkable than the

emergence from the pavilione two men in white coats.

Flushed with their early-season triumphs, however, England's cricketers now want to make a proper entrance, in-cluding the chance to puff out their chests and sing "God Save The Queen".

"It happens with every other sport and at the Olympics," Alec Stewart, a senior England player, said. "I'm very patriotic and it would be a proud moment."

bi gi

Charles Arthur

The problem perplexing the game's administrators, however, is not whether it should happen but when. "At football and ! rugby, spectators tend to be in their seats some time before the game," the ECB spokesman, Richard Little, said. "But I saw South Africa play Australia in Port Elizabeth recently and when they played the anthem there was hardly anyone in the ground. But if you have everyone on the field just before the beginning you risk upsetting the players' preparations, particu-larly the two who are about to

Anthems were played at the last World Cup and now precede Test matches in the Caribbean but there is no intory of the practice in Engin



Building a stage fit for the world's finest as France prepares for the real thing next summer at Tests

A year to the day before the start of the World Cup finals, the roof above the Stade de France at Saint-Denis, near Paris, is completed yesterday. The ground will hold 80,000 **Babbel hits out at thrifty United**

Football ALAN NIXON

Markus Babbel took a swipe at Manchester United last night after being offered just half of the £1.5m a year wages he is looking for. The Bayern Munich the terms on offer from United despite the clubs agreeing on

a £5m fee for the 24-year-old. Instead Babbel flew off on holiday with a blistering farewell remark about the way the talks had gone - mach to the frustration of United's manager,

Babbel said: "I am already at a top club. I don't have to go begging on my knees to any-The German defender an international regular – wants £30,000 a week from United on

a three-year contract that would take his total cost to them to almost £10m. However United's negotiator, solicitor and club director Maurice Watkins, is understood to have offered Babbel £14,000 a week and a

four-year deal. Watkins stayed on in Munich after the initial talks broke down but the signs are not good for United. Although the Old Trafford club are likely to increase their offer when Babbel comes back from his holiday, there is a huge gap in their figures. United also want Babbel to commit himself for the peak years of his career, but he has his eyes set on a further move at 27, when he could go

Rangers have spent £3m on a player who recently said that does not like football. Sergio

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Porrini, the Juventus central defender who signed a four-year contract yesterday, gave an interview earlier this year in which he said that when his contract in Turin ended in 2001 he would give up the game. "It is a world I don't like," he said, "It is a world where one doesn't say

what one thinks."

Rangers, who signed Porrini despite competition from Man-chester United and Parma, are still trying to keep Brian Laudrup. The Ibrox manager, Walter Smith, telephoned the 28-year-old striker at the Denmark training camp on Satur-day before their World Cup qualifier against Bosnia, though Laudrup later confirmed his desire to leave.

With Ajax and Manchester United heading the queue to secure his services, Smith ad-

France to team up with Murray at his Jersey summer home vesterday, where they were due to meet Laudrup and his agent.

The former manager of Southampton, Graeme Souness, could become coach of the Italian Serie B club Torino on Sunday, after a week of talking with the club. "We are ready. We have to finalise the details of the contract and we hope to sign next Sunday," a Torino

spokesman said. Sunderland are facing a £600,000 bill for pulling out of the signing of Israeli striker, Ronen Harazi. The 27-year-old international took the club to Fifa. world football's governing body, which backed his claim that he signed a binding agreement, and he is now looking for compensation from Sunderland on a

journed a family holiday in four-year contract that was wich City for a contract worth France to team up with Murray worth £3,000 per-week. worth £3,000 per-week.

Sunderland, who are to appeal, called off the signing when they discovered that Harazi was carrying an old injury and

signed a contract after impressing Sunderland's manager, Peter Reid, in training, and Fifa does not recognise the English system of making transfers subject to medicals

Harazi is now playing again and helped his club, Beitar Jerusalem, become champions while Sunderland were dropping out of the Premiership. Sunderland may also face separate action from the club, who missed out on a £500,000 transfer fee when the deal collapsed.

Ian Crook is set to leave Nor-

Japanese side, Sanfrecce Hiroshima. The midfielder has been unsettled at Norwich for some time, and signed for Ipswich last summer before changing his mind and return-However, Harazi had already ing to Carrow Road. Hiroshima reportedly wanted Aston Villa's veteran Andy Townsend, but he

was too expensive for them. The Football League officially release its fixture list for the 1997-98 season on Monday, and is in agreement with the Premier League that Middles-brough's relegation from the Premiership stands - despite the continuing threat from the Teesside club of legal action after having three points deducted for failing to turn up at

and fans' behaviour.

Forest in a similar position.

Blackburn last season. Chris Hull, a Football League

Diprose called up to relieve the pressure

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT reports from Johannesburg

The frustrations of international air travel may just have saved Tony Diprose from the most alarming experience of his brief top-flight career. The 24-year-old Saracens captain was called up by the Lions yester-day as replacement for the injured Scott Quinnell, but could not be placed on a sufficiently early flight to get him here in time to watch tonight's confrontation with Gauteng. For the sake of the new England No 8's nerves, that was probably no bad thing. Diprose will link up with the

squad in Durban tomorrow, by which time the tourists will know just how strong they are by comparison with the best of the South African provincial giants. As Gauteng, formerly known as Transvaal, can afford to employ three full Springboks as mere reserves, the Lions face an unimaginably difficult task under the floodlights at Ellis Park.

Gauteng will be captained by Kobus Wiese and spearheaded from midfield by Hennic le Roux, the two World Cup-winning heroes controversially ditched from the national squad and Chris Rossouw, three more celebrated graduates of the school of '95, also turn out winner at the back of the line along with the Argentinian out and good in defence," Fran Roberto Grau, who only last Saturday was giving the England front row a seeing-to in Buenos

Aires. It is a murderous line-up.

They have players with a point to prove and this game provides them with the ideal opportunity," said Tim Rodber, who captains the Lions for the second successive midweek match. "By the same yardstick, we too have points to prove. This is a selection game for the first Test and mentally we are right up for the occasion. We are prepared for a very physical match and it will be a matter of doing justice to the red shirt. There will come a time tonight when we will need to be a team."

A second straight defeat would flatten morale precisely when the tourists most need to feel good about themselves. Not only have they suffered their first reverse, lost three players to in-jury and one, Scott Gibbs, to suspension, but with Gauteng. Natal, the Emerging Springboks, Free State and two Tests on the agenda, there is not a single game that they can be remotely confident of winning.

Quite when Diprose, who has given up a holiday in St Lucia with his girlfriend, can expect his first run in a Lions jersey remains unclear, but the selectors believe he will fit in when the time comes. "Tony is an extremely good ball-player, a ball-

Cotton, the manager, said "He has the qualities required for the kind of rugby we are trying to play and to compete with the

type of opponents we are facing."
If the Lions have their way they will never again face opponents like Marius Bosman and Elandre van der Bergh. The two Mpumalanga locks who caused such mayhem in Witbank were both given wrist-slapping fines on Monday night and although Cotton was far from impressed he was of a mind yesterday to let sleeping dogs lie It is now for other people to

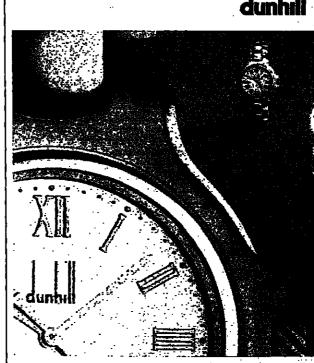
decide whether the fines do jus-

tice to the events that put Dod-die Weir out of the tour," Cotton said, "but just to put it in context, I don't suppose they would even match Doddie's consultancy fees, let alone the surgery he requires on his knee." he requires on his knee."

GAUTENE: D du Toxt; J Gilmann, J van der Wait, H La Roux, P Hendhiss; L van Rensburg, J Roux, R Graung, J Roux, R Grau, C Rossouw, K van Greuning, K Wieses (capt), R Thomp, A Voss, P Yrause, W Broshihan, B seen, W Lessen; L Meodennald, Serman (Rother, B Seen, W Lessen; L Meodennald, Serman (Rother), T Westernamen and England); J Beatternam (Rother) and Wales), W Greenwood (Laicessen), T Underwood (Newcaste and England); T Smith (Westernam) and Contrading), B Walliams (Rothermond and Weles), P Walliams (Rothermond and Bartand and Rothermond and Bartand
nians and Scotland), T Rodber (and Engand, capt). N Back (Leice land). Section 1

England Test squad, page 30

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ACROSS Tidy resort (4) Pay out for bus-rides place (7-2) all over the place (8) 10 Athletics score a riot when all obstacles are

removed? (3,5,2.5) 11 General opinion of

verbal assault (9) 12 Novel gong in two-note 1 presentation (4) 13 Early union leaders insincere, but making

pleasing sound in speech (7)

15 Singular colours of sandpipers (6) 17 Mistake after opening- 5 time brings panic (6) 19 European scourge, this smelly creature! (7)
20 Game explorer (4)

21 Girl has an accident leaving this lovely 24 Defensive at the wicket,

not easily ruffled (6-9) 25 Hand over change (8) 26 Many getting knocked down? (4)
DOWN

Peers embracing sol-diers who are celebrities (8)

Cardinal in firm belief (5) Chill-factor here in France over headland

Cabriolet is got out (the buggy sort) (14) Space above top storey 23 Slice on Sunday - the said to be creaky in parts (9)

Pound a book? (4) Wait a moment! Do not let go of the string!

Distress-signal put out whenever youth-leader has to become inflexible (6)

14 Wonders of females only in untidy heap (9) Northern Territory I found in map collection as continent at one time (8)

18 Jungle Book? (7) 19 Crack up in a spire to be repaired (6) 22 State in which I had a

last we see of deer? (4)

by Carel du Plessis last week. house made shorter (5) Pieter Hendriks, Johan Roux